ASUKA COMICS DX

As You Like It

# お気に召すまま

おきにめすまま

1

あきの 秋乃茉莉 まつり

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## Akino Matsuri Profile

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*Four hundred years back into the past.*
*In a countrified corner of Merry Olde England*
*lives Jacqueline, the daughter of a grand duke.*
*She is infatuated with Raymond, a beautiful*
*youth in a certain theatre troupe. ♡*
*Full of turbulent adventures, the fascinating tale*
*of a tomboy-princess who dreams of love!!*

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# Oki ni mesu mama (As you like it)

## by Akino Matsuri

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*Paraphrased from Jaques's speech in As You Like It, II.vii

LIFE IS LIKE A SEVEN-ACT PLAY.
THE ENTIRE WORLD IS A STAGE,
MEN AND WOMEN ARE ITS ACTORS.
ALL APPEAR ON THE STAGE
AND ALL LEAVE IT.
THE ROLES PEOPLE PLAY
CHANGE OVER TIME.
THE PLAY CONTINUES
THROUGH LIFE.

[ Act I ] The Princess Enters

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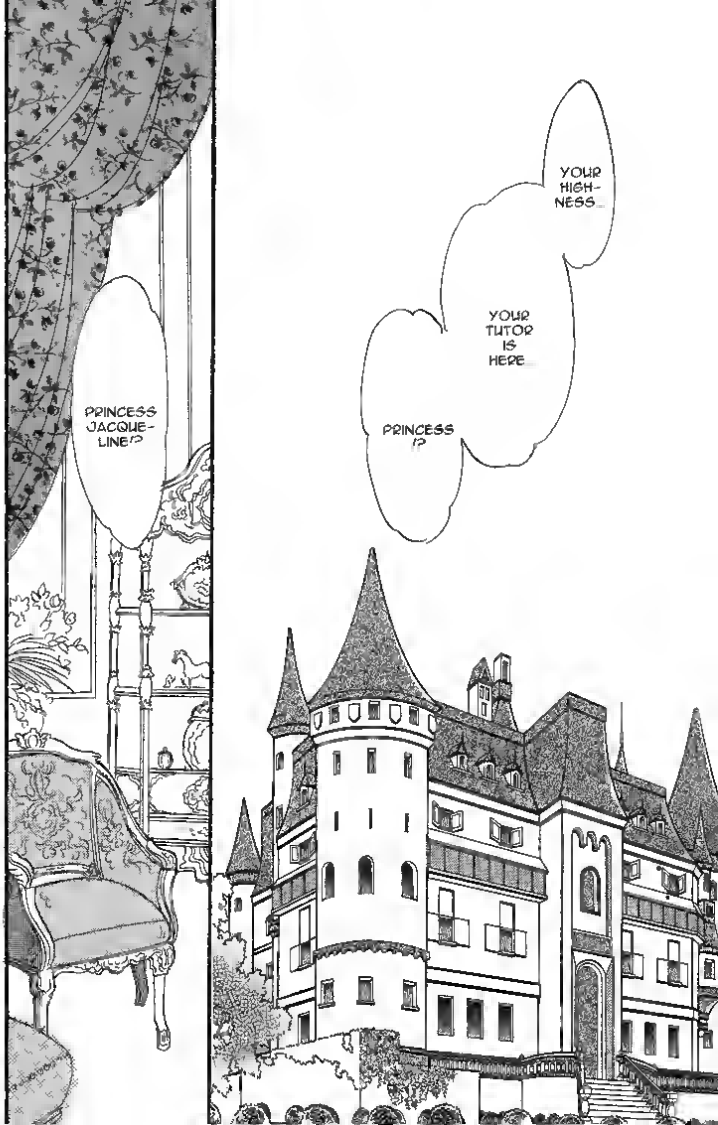


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COME, DARLING, SIT HERE
ONCE THAT'S DONE, I'LL KISS YOUR BEAUTIFUL EARS
Wah ha ha ha!
LOOK! HER FOOLISH FACE
SHE'S BEEN COMPLETELY FOOLED BY MY MAGIC!
kya ha ha ha
NOW, MY DEAR QUEEN, SEE WITH YOUR TRUE EYES!
PLOP
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AND THE ACTOR PLAYING THE PRINCE IS JUST GORGEOUS ♡
THE SCRIPT-WRITER HAS ALSO WRITTEN MANY SMASH-HITS
TRENDY DRESS AND A LARGE-SCALE SHOW
JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT OF A TROUPE FROM LONDON
Princess
PRINCESS JACQUE-LINE!
SHH!
ANDREW, THIS IS THE BEST PART!
PRINCESS! WE MUST RETURN QUICKLY
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O Only a little longer, okay?
ANDREW, LOOK AT THE KID PLAYING THE PRINCESS
EVEN YOU HAVE TO THINK SHE'S TOO CUTE
WELL
YEAH
I GUESS
SNAP!
WH— WHAT IS IT?
THAT'S A BOY!
TRANNY
EH!?
I SEE
THERE'S NO WOMEN ALLOWED ON STAGE, SO ALL THE ACTORS ARE MEN!
DOESN'T THAT MAKE HIM A CHILD ABOUT YOUR AGE, THEN, YOUR HIGHNESS?
ALL THE FEMALE PARTS ARE PLAYED BY BOYS WHOSE VOICES HAVEN'T CHANGED
HO HO HO
Well there are a few exceptions.
Even though he's that hot.
That "child" was uncalled for!

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SO, DO YOU LIKE THAT BOY?
What?
DON'T WORRY, YOUR MISTRESS IS VERY OPEN-MINDED
ABOUT DIFFERENT TYPES OF LOVE
Princess
SINCE HER MOTHER DIED LAST YEAR ALL SHE'S DONE IS MOPE ABOUT
IF SOMETHING SUCH AS THIS CAN CHEER HER UP
IT'S MORE THAN WORTH IT

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PLEASE STOP IT MY MOTHER WILL SCOLD ME
HEY, ANDREW, LET'S GO SEE THE PLAY AGAIN TOMORROW
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE, NANNY'S MY FRIEND
AAH SPEAKING OF THE PLAY, THAT ACTOR IS SOOO GOOD HE'S HANDSOME AND A GOOD SINGER, TO BOOT
The day before yesterday, he was the Crown Prince of England.
Yesterday, he was a Mediterranean pirate.
And then today he was a fairy prince.

ROCKED IN A HORSE-DRAWN WAGON, TRAVELING FROM TOWN TO TOWN, COUNTRY TO COUNTRY
REALLY JOURNEYING
THEY CAN GO TO THE FLOATING CAPITAL OF VENETIA, OR TO THE TEMPLES OF THE EGYPTIAN PHARAOHS WHEREVER THEY WISH!
EVEN AS A BEGGAR WEARING PATCHWORK CLOTH HELD TOGETHER WITH BEADS—
DRESSED IN THE LATEST STYLES
RECEIVING THE FLOWERS OF THE SEASON
Pant pant
THE WHOLE WORLD IS THEIR STAGE! THEY CAN BE REBORN AS ANYONE
COMPARED TO THAT—

Maybe the princess has acting talent too
OH, IT'S HIS HIGHNESS, THE GRAND DUKE
COMPARED TO THAT, I
JAC-QUE-LINE!!
WHERE DID YOU GO AFTER DITCHING YOUR TUTOR AGAIN?
What's this "Grand Duke" nonsense I'm your father
Why today I went to visit mother's grave.
IT WOULD BE TOO SAD FOR HER IF THE FLOWERS WERE TO STOP EVEN BEFORE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH
WELL, YOUR HEART'S IN THE RIGHT PLACE...
...BUT IT IS NOT GOD'S WILL THAT WE MOURN THE DEAD FOREVER.
* The first year after death is important in Sh into sm. -Emily

WHAT'S A POOR GIRL LIKE ME TO DO!
...
THERE'S JUST NO PLACE FOR ME IN THIS HOUSE ANYMORE
Sluggggh...
AAH!
WHAT
Princess?
YOU PERVY OLD MAN...
MOTHER HADN'T BEEN DEAD A MONTH FROM HER ILLNESS WHEN HE GOT MARRIED AGAIN TO A YOUNG COURTIER
AND, AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, THEY'D SECRETLY CONCEIVED A CHILD
MY STEPMOTHER AND HALF-BROTHER, ACTING LIKE THEY'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG

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SHOO
YET ANOTHER SOLD-OUT SHOW!!
TONIGHT'S ON ME, DRINK UP!!
THIS TOWN'S GOT A PRETTY GOOD ECONOMY, DOESN'T IT?
OH? RAISED AGAIN?
NOT REALLY. THE RENT FOR ALL THE FARMS HAS GONE UP
STOP, STOP, THE WOMEN OF THIS TOWN ARE ALL SO BEAUTIFUL...
IT MEANS THERE WAS A POINT TO OUR COMING HERE.
You're so handsome!
OH! YOU WERE THAT PRINCE, RIGHT!?

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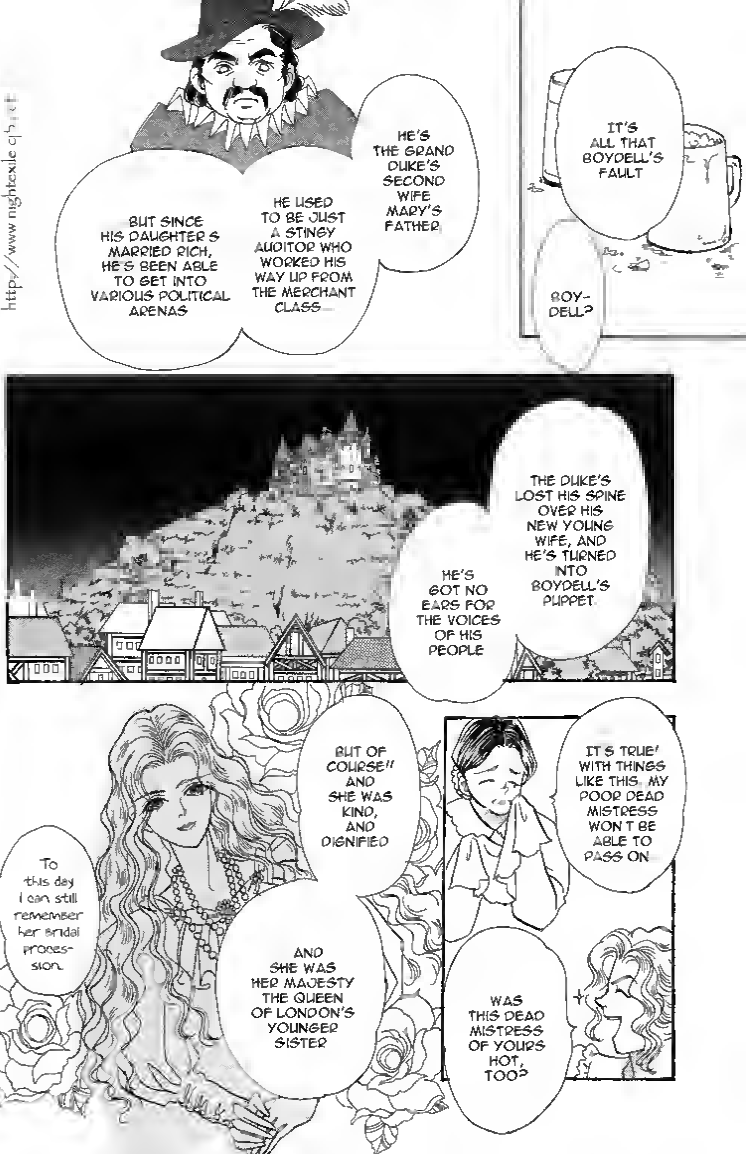
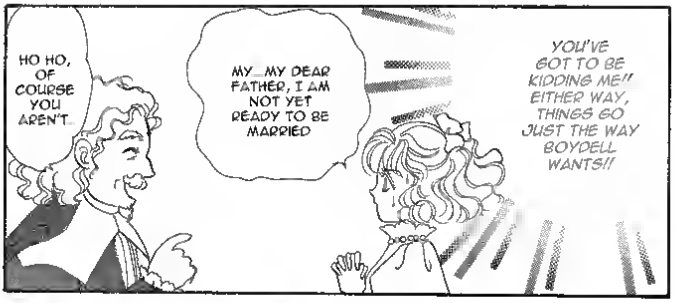

HE'S THE GRAND DUKE'S SECOND WIFE MARY'S FATHER.
HE USED TO BE JUST A STINGY AUDITOR WHO WORKED HIS WAY UP FROM THE MERCHANT CLASS...
BUT SINCE HIS DAUGHTER'S MARRIED RICH, HE'S BEEN ABLE TO GET INTO VARIOUS POLITICAL ARENAS
IT'S ALL THAT BOYDELL'S FAULT
BOY-DELL?
THE DUKE'S LOST HIS SPINE OVER HIS NEW YOUNG WIFE, AND HE'S TURNED INTO BOYDELL'S PUPPET.
HE'S GOT NO EARS FOR THE VOICES OF HIS PEOPLE
IT'S TRUE! WITH THINGS LIKE THIS, MY POOR DEAD MISTRESS WON'T BE ABLE TO PASS ON.
WAS THIS DEAD MISTRESS OF YOURS HOT, TOO?
BUT OF COURSE!! AND SHE WAS KIND, AND DIGNIFIED
AND SHE WAS HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF LONDON'S YOUNGER SISTER
To this day I can still remember her bridal procession.

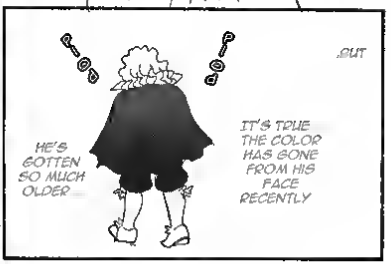
This is how they imagine Princess Jacqueline.
She's surely tormented by her stepmother daily
POOR GIRL
EVER SINCE HER MOTHER DIED, PRINCESS JACQUELINE HAS BEEN WEARING MOURNING CLOTHES AND STAYING SHUT UP IN THE CASTLE IT SEEMS
THAT WOULD BE PRINCESS JACQUELINE
SURELY THE GRAND DUKE ALREADY HAD A DAUGHTER
WHAT'S THAT YOU WERE SAYING?
Hic
PRINCESS JACQUELINE WILL END UP IN HER GRAVE FROM AN EPEDIMIC SOON, TOO
I HEARD IT FROM A STUDENT OF THE CASTLE'S OWN DOCTOR
MM-HMM?
IT'S NOTHING YOU SAY OUT LOUD, YOU KNOW
WELL IT'S

IT WOULD BE A PRETTY SMART MATCH
IF YOU MARRY INTO THE HOUSE OF ETHELBERT, YOU'LL BECOME PART OF THE NOBLE LANCASTER BLOOD-LINE
* Ethelbert was a 6th century king who ruled southern England. The Lancasters were the house of the Red Rose that fought the Yorks for rights to the English throne in the War of the Roses. ~Emily
AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE WITH A PRINCE FROM A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY!?
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO LEAVE THIS COUNTRY!?
BOYDELL'S YOUNGER BROTHER!?
I THINK IT WOULD BE FITTING FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO EVENTUALLY INHERIT THIS TERRITORY
HOW ABOUT BARON BOYDELL'S YOUNGER BROTHER RICHARD?
Look at all these portfolio photos we've gotten.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE, WE CAN ALWAYS GET THE GROOM TO COME HERE
NO, NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING

#_ight_exile@rc rchighway net


HO HO, OF COURSE YOU AREN'T.
MY...MY DEAR FATHER, I AM NOT YET READY TO BE MARRIED
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!! EITHER WAY, THINGS GO JUST THE WAY BOYDELL WANTS!!

I'd so love to see my grand-children soon.
LATELY, MY EYES AND EARS AND LEGS AND HIPS HAVE STARTED TO FAIL.
HOWEVER THE YEARS HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL ON ME



I THINK THE PRINCE FROM THE HOUSE OF ETHELBERT IS THE BEST ONE
!!
RIGHT? WHAT DO YOU THINK!?
HEY, ANDREW!! ISN'T IT JUST TERRIBLE!?
THIS HAS TO BE BOYDELL'S DOING!!
** The kanji on the fiddler is "寿" it's often written on congratulatory letters for 'luck' and means 'long life' and 'congratulations'
OOH... HOW UNFORTUNATE I AM!
MARRYING SOME MAN I DON'T LOVE
I... HAVEN'T EVEN HAD MY FIRST CRUSH YET!!
ANDREW! NOT YOU TOO!!
WHO?
O PRINCESS!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE ANYMORE!
GET OUT OF HERE!!
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BITTER-SWEET LIKE THE SCENT OF LEMONS...
WHERE IS MY FIRST LOVE ?
"LOVE" !?
...THAT'S RIGHT...
...LOVE THAT SCORCHES THE BODY"
"LOVE THAT SQUEEZES YOUR CHEST"
"LOVE TO MAKE YOU SOAK YOUR PILLOW WITH TEARS, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT"... AND SO ON
WHERE IS MY LOVE!?
R S !
Hc!
...THAT'S IT...!!

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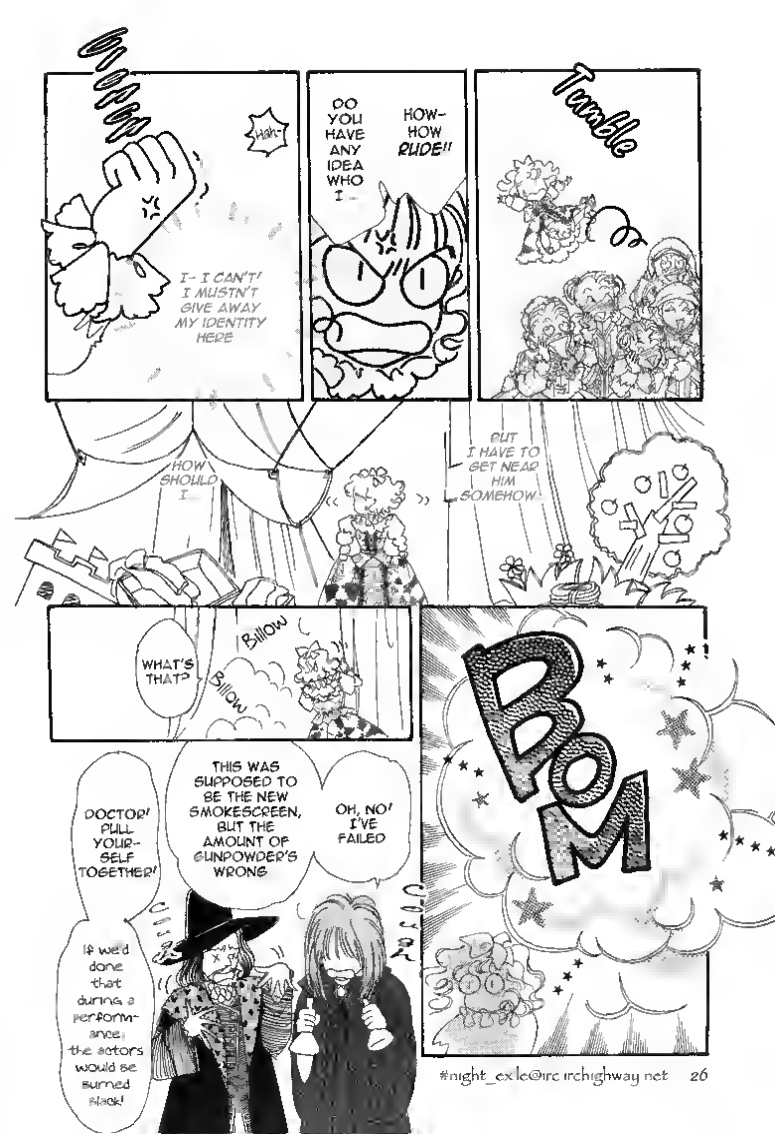
Hah!
I- I CAN'T! I MUSTN'T GIVE AWAY MY IDENTITY HERE
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I—
HOW- HOW RUDE!!
Tumble
HOW SHOULD I—
BUT I HAVE TO GET NEAR HIM SOMEHOW
WHAT'S THAT?
Billow
Billow
BOOM
DOCTOR! PULL YOUR-SELF TOGETHER!
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE NEW SMOKESCREEN, BUT THE AMOUNT OF GUNPOWDER'S WRONG
OH, NO! I'VE FAILED
If we'd done that during a performance, the actors would be burned alive!

WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH "WOMEN" FOR THAT
WE HAVE MS ROSE
...AND MARLOWE AND...
UNFOR-TUNATELY, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PAWNS
MM, YES THE NEW PLAY...
BY THE WAY, DIRECTOR, HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO WRITE THE NEW SCRIPT YET?
THIS TIME I WAS THINKING OF DOING A PLAY ABOUT THREE COUPLES THAT GET ALL TANGLED TOGETHER IN A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY GONE AWRY YOU KNOW, THE KIND THAT'S SO POPULAR RIGHT NOW

* Marlowe's name is probably a homage to Christopher Marlowe, an English dramatist, poet and actor. He is known as the greatest dramatist before Shakespeare, and there are a few who think that he ghost-wrote scenes for Shakespeare in some of the early plays. ~Emily

**Look-out editors agree that Shakespeare's Prospero had two actors to play the (young) female parts: one tall and blonde and the other shorter and dark-haired. ~Emily

You don't have to worry about my parents
I don't have a mother or father
I'm an orphan, all on my own
THERE'S NO WAY YOUR MAMA WOULD LET YOU ACT. NOW IS THERE, BOY?
NO! NO WAY!
THIS ISN'T A GAME HURRY UP AND GO HOME
YOU WON'T MAKE THE AUDIENCE CRY WITH A STORY LIKE THAT
WHAT IS IT BOY?
ARE YOU FROM THIS TOWN?
WOULD YOU PUT ME IN ONE OF YOUR PLAYS?
YUP! MY NAME'S JACK
IF YOUR EYES ARE NOT PLEASED BY WHAT THEY'VE SEEN
JUST TREAT IT ALL
AS A DREAM...
WE ACTORS ARE BUT SHADOWS
WA
WAIT!

HEY, ROY... THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD
THOSE WERE THE FAIRY'S CLOSING LINES *
DARLING!
WELL... WE WERE JUST IN NEED OF ANOTHER FEMALE-ROLE PLAYER...
Hmm...
I CAN SAY ALMOST ALL OF THE LINES FROM YOUR PLAYS
...IF YOU DID LIKE WHAT YOU SAW
WHILE THIS MAY BE A POOR PLAY...
...NOTHING MORE THAN A DREAM...
...PLEASE SHOW IT WITH YOUR HANDS
* Puck's closing soliloquy from A Midsummer Night's Dream" ~Emily~
ST..RT WITH THE LAUNDRY, THEN BOIL SOME RICE!!
...BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO START FROM THE BOTTOM!
FWUMP!
WHAA!?
WELL... YES...
THEN YOU'LL GIVE ME A JOB!?
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WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? IT DIDN'T COME OUT AT ALL.
PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT!
KID, CAN'T YOU EVEN CHOP FIREWOOD RIGHT!?
Scrub
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS
Scrub
NEXT, YOU'RE MENDING THE COSTUMES.
YOU WON'T EAT UNTIL THAT'S DONE
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU'RE FREE TO GO ANYTIME
WHAT!?
MY, MY PLAYING THE PRINCESS NOW, HUH?
YOU CAN'T EVEN SEW IT'S A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO BE THE HEROINE!
WHY YOU INSOLENT-- WHO ON EARTH DO YOU THINK I AM!?

MY HANDS...
OW!
FRICK
...IT'S M...R-LOWE
Y... YOU WERE THE GIRL FROM, UM...
GIVE ME HALF
SNIFF...
TH...
THANKS MARLOWE
AND BEFORE THAT, WHEN YOU PLAYED THE GRECIAN QUEEN---
I SAW YOUR JULIET A WHILE BACK!
THAT LAST SCENE WAS SO MOVING I CRIED!
SNIFF
SNIFF

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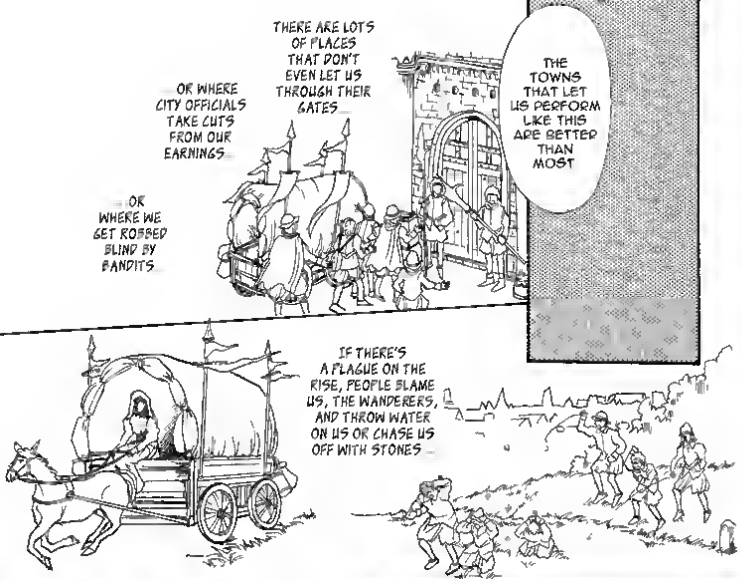
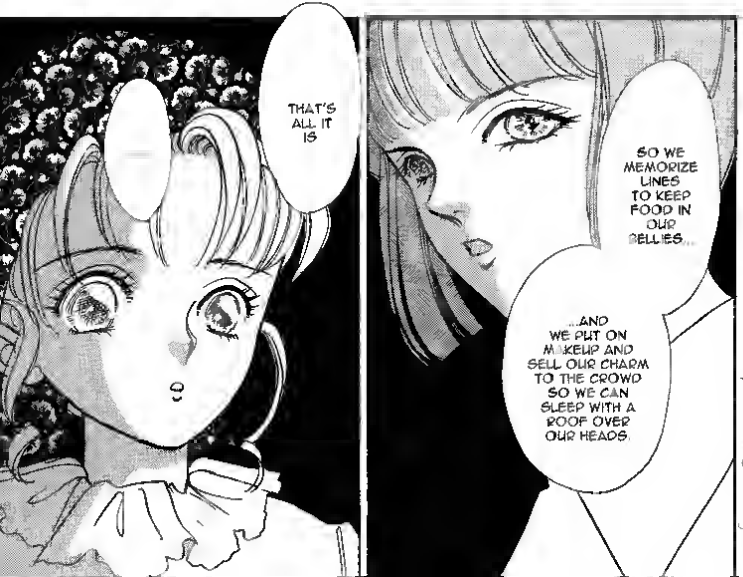
YOU'RE SO LUCKY! GETTING TO WEAR SO MANY COSTUMES EVERY DAY...
WELL, IT'S A JOB
YOU DON'T ENJOY BEING IN PLAYS?
YOU DIDN'T CHOOSE THIS JOB BECAUSE YOU LIKED IT?
I WAS SOLD TO THE TROUPE FOR EIGHTEEN POUNDS
They got a two-pound discount
BUT YOU GET TO TRAVEL TO ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT TOWNS TO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. ISN'T THAT INTERESTING?
MY REAL WORK IS CHORES LIKE THIS, THE PLAYS ARE JUST EXTRA
HEH!
SPOKEN LIKE SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN A HOUSE
WE'RE ROOTLESS WANDERERS
WE DON'T HAVE HOMETOWNS OR FAMILY REGISTERS, OR REAL NAMES... WE'RE JUST A COLLECTION OF OUTSIDERS


THERE ARE LOTS OF PLACES THAT DON'T EVEN LET US THROUGH THEIR GATES...
...OR WHERE CITY OFFICIALS TAKE CUTS FROM OUR EARNINGS...
...OR WHERE WE GET ROBBED BLIND BY BANDITS...
THE TOWNS THAT LET US PERFORM LIKE THIS ARE BETTER THAN MOST
IF THERE'S A PLAGUE ON THE RISE, PEOPLE BLAME US, THE WANDERERS, AND THROW WATER ON US OR CHASE US OFF WITH STONES...


THAT'S ALL IT IS
SO WE MEMORIZE LINES TO KEEP FOOD IN OUR BELLIES...
...AND WE PUT ON MAKEUP AND SELL OUR CHARM TO THE CROWD SO WE CAN SLEEP WITH A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS.

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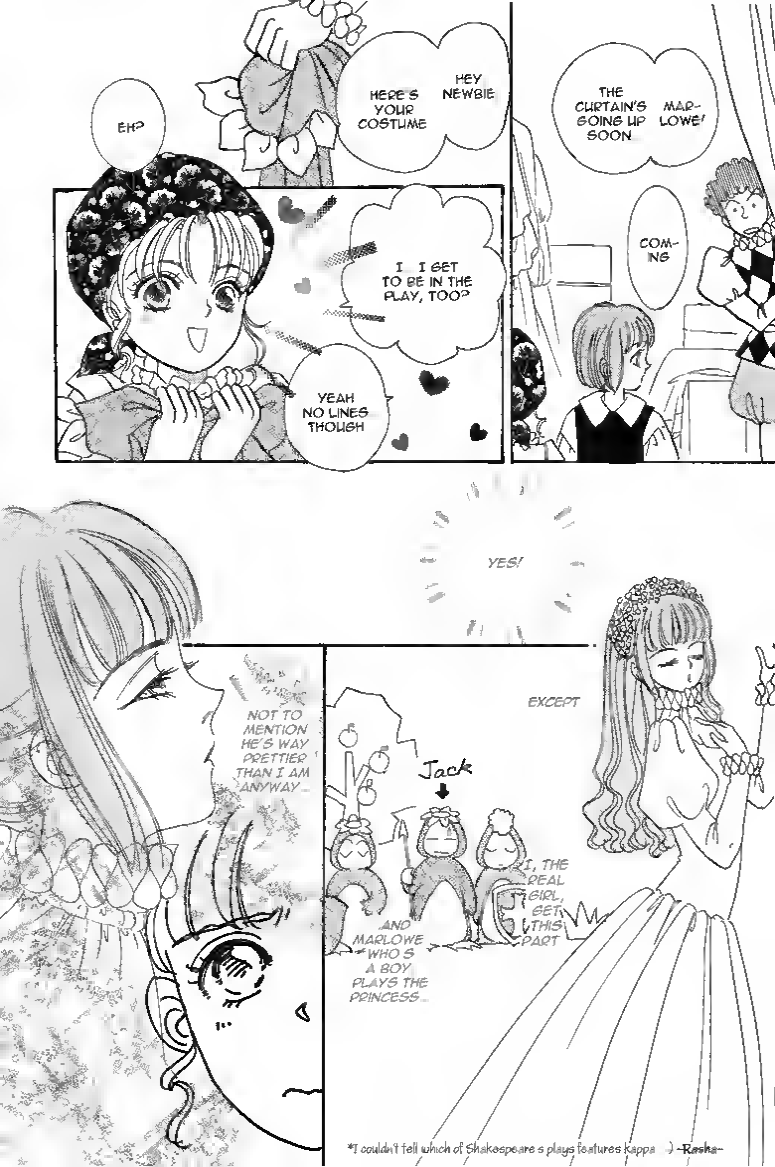


*I couldn't tell which of Shakespeare's plays features kappas ) -Rasha-

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NO! STOP IT!
Kyaa!
Kuah ha ha ha
Pour for me girl! Pour it~~
That's Boydell's younger brother!! (Possible bridegroom candidate)
:)
I- I HOPE HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME
SPLASH!
AH-!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, WENCH!?
& BUT~~
EEK! PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SIR
LAY OFF HER, WHY DON'T YOU!?
YOU'RE THE ONE IN THE WRONG HERE!!
WHY YOU INSOLENT ~~
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!?
UPSTART

HOW RUDE! DO YOU KNOW WHO I--
WHO'S THE RUDE ONE HERE!
YOU'RE JUST ROY-DELL'S LITTLE BROTHER, AND YOU DO THIS!?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
Jack! Idiot! Apologize...
WHY YOU LITTLE-- I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THIS!
SLAP!
BOSS!?
WE'RE SO SORRY, MASTER!!
THIS BRAT STILL THINKS HE'S PLAYING A PRINCE
I ASSURE YOU, HE'LL BE SEVERELY REPRI-MANDED
RIGHT
SO IF YOU'D PLEASE OVERLOOK WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT?
MM

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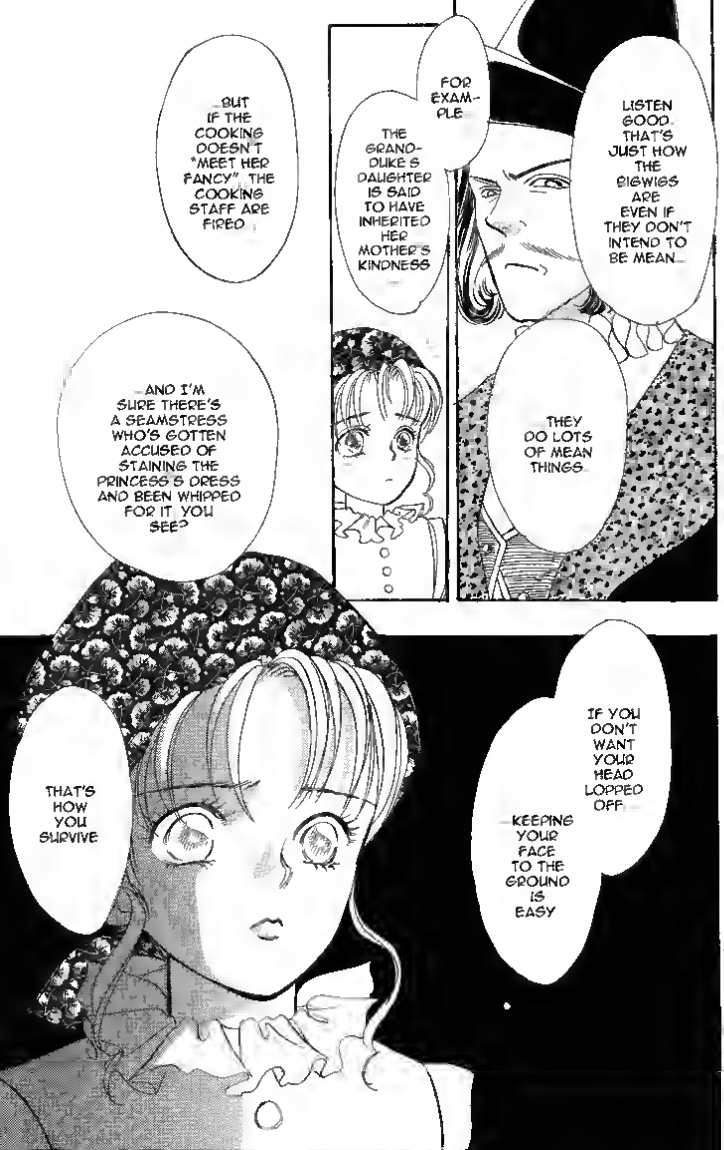
THAT JERK WAS THE ONE IN THE WRONG!
BOSS, WHY'D YOU DO THAT!?
Yessir
NEXT TIME ANYTHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS, I'LL HAVE YOU RUN OUT OF TOWN BEFORE THE DAY'S PASSED!
HMPH!
ALL WE CAN DO TO MEN LIKE HIM IS BOW OUR HEADS AND ACCEPT IT!!
THEY'RE IN A MUCH HIGHER POSITION SOCIALLY THAN ANY OF US
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO'S IN THE RIGHT!
BUT...
YOU ABSOLUTE IDIOT!
BONK!
THE QUEEN WOULD NEVER DO SOME-THING THAT MEAN...
NO!
AND THE GRAND DUKE HIMSELF COULD HAVE HIS HEAD LOPPED OFF BY THE QUEEN AT ANY TIME WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT IT
EVEN THOSE GUYS WHO WERE JUST HERE HAVE TO BOW LIKE MAD WHEN THEY'RE IN FRONT OF THE GRAND DUKE


LISTEN GOOD. THAT'S JUST HOW THE BIGWIGS ARE EVEN IF THEY DON'T INTEND TO BE MEAN...
THEY DO LOTS OF MEAN THINGS...
FOR EXAM-PLE...
THE GRAND-DUKE'S DAUGHTER IS SAID TO HAVE INHERITED HER MOTHER'S KINDNESS
...BUT IF THE COOKING DOESN'T "MEET HER FANCY", THE COOKING STAFF ARE FIRED
...AND I'M SURE THERE'S A SEAMSTRESS WHO'S GOTTEN ACCUSED OF STAINING THE PRINCESS'S DRESS AND BEEN WHIPPED FOR IT, YOU SEE?
IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR HEAD LOPPED OFF...
...KEEPING YOUR FACE TO THE GROUND IS EASY
THAT'S HOW YOU SURVIVE

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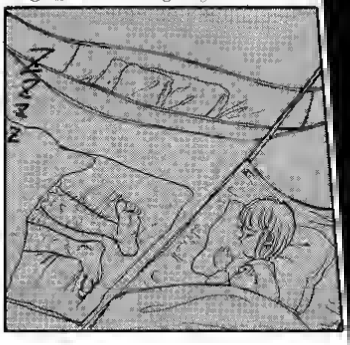

http://www.shoujo.com

* Andrew the ninja! XD ~Resha~
** And a drooly n nya too! XD ~ScarletxD~

.....
WERE YOU LAUGHING AT ME THE WHOLE TIME?
A FOOL OF PRINCESS, STARRY-EYED OVER PLAYING THE ROLE OF BEGGAR...
SOMEBODY WHO CAN'T EVEN SEW...

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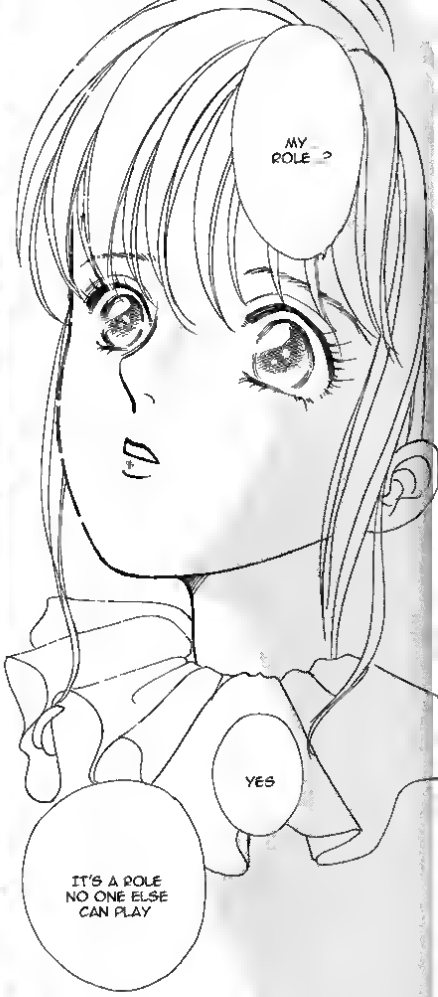
Um..
WAAH
WAAH
AAAH
Ah
Ah
http://www.rightscale.cjb.net

It's nothing.
Hic-
I'm sorry.
Hic-cup
sob
PRINCESS, THE REASON I NEVER STOPPED YOU FROM SNEAKING OUT OF THE CASTLE ON YOUR EXCURSIONS
WAS BECAUSE THERE WERE THINGS I WANTED YOU TO SEE
I WANTED YOU TO SEE THEM WITH YOUR OWN EYES
I THOUGHT, SOMEDAY, THEY MIGHT AID YOU IN CREATING YOUR OWN ROLE
THE BACK ALLEYS OF THE TOWN
THE PATHS OF THE VINEYARDS
THE KITCHENS BELOW THE CASTLE

knight_sale@hotmail.com



THE ROLE OF THE PERSON – THE HUMAN – YOU ARE
FATHER.
OH, JACQUELINE! ♡
I THINK I WILL GO TO SEE THE ETHELBERT PRINCE

A messenger from the grand Duke!?
YES, YES ♡ ASK FOR ANYTHING YOU LIKE. ♡
IN EXCHANGE, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
YES! FINALLY !!
What is?
OH, IT'S NOTHING
WE'RE JUST VERY GLAD AND GRATEFUL.
—AND, AS ENTERTAINMENT AT TOMORROW'S DINNER PARTY SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ONE OF YOUR PLAYS.
PRINCESS JACQUELINE HAS HEARD OF YOUR REPUTATION IN THE CASTLE-TOWN BELOW
What!?
—HAS A REQUEST CONCERNING THE PERFORMANCE!!
THE PRINCESS
WHAT?
HOWEVER!!
Ahem!

ROMEO AND JULIET!?
...WHY IN THE WORLD...?
IT'S A TALE OF TWO YOUNG LOVERS WHO TRAGICALLY TAKE THEIR OWN LIVES, VICTIMS OF ARRANGED POLITICAL MARRIAGES...
It's my favorite play!
IF THIS WORKS, DAD MAY CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT TALKS AFTER SEEING THE PLAY...
IF I CONFRONT ROYDELL'S YOUNGER BROTHER WITH WHAT HE DID AT THE ALEHOUSE THAT'LL SETTLE *HIS* HASH
AND ANYWAY IF HE DOESN'T I CAN ALWAYS JUST TURN 'EM DOWN FLAT
RIGHT...
It's good that she's so lively, forgetting her troubles, but somehow...
Maybe I took the wrong route here...

HELP ME OUT HERE "
OKAY? THIS IS MY LAST SELFISH REQUEST, REALLY!
AND BESIDES
I DO HAVE ONE "DREAM" I CAN'T GIVE UP ON, AFTER ALL
ALL RIGHT
Apparently I can't say "no" to the princess either

I've only heard rumors but
It sounds like the princess's engagement interview is tonight
See? The person in that box over there is a prince from the neighboring country
Murmur
Murmur
Any hotties out there?
HEY, LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE WHO'S ANYONE IN THIS TOWN HAS SHOWN UP
HERE I AM!
THAT'S ME!
OOH! WHAT PRETTY FLOWERS! ♡
PRIMA-DONNA?
...PLEASE GIVE THESE TO TODAY'S PRIMA-DONNA?
UM... WOULD YOU...
YES, COME IN
KNOCK KNOCK
EXCUSE ME...
BOSS...
HM?
THEN, ABOUT THE TIMING ON THE THUNDER CUES...

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I FIGURED YOU'D GOTTEN SICK OF THE WORK WE'D HAD YOU DO AND MADE A BREAK FOR IT...
WHAT THE
JACK!?
AND HOW DID YOU EVER MANAGE TO GET INTO THE CASTLE
NEVER MIND THAT, BOSS MORE IMPORT-ANTLY...
JULIET!?
LET ME PLAY A ROLE WITH LINES TODAY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
TODAY'S SHOW IS...
I'VE GOT ALL JULIET'S LINES DOWN PAT

WH WHY!?
AREN'T YOU PERFORMING AT MY I MEAN, AT THE PRINCESS'S REQUEST?
RIGHT SO WE CAN'T USE YOU TODAY
WHAT!?
WE'RE DOING A BRAND-NEW PLAY TODAY
HEY, MARLOWE
ARE YOU READY?
YUP.
DID THAT, ANDREW BUNGLE IT!?
WHA--
WHA- WHAT'S MARLOWE DOING HERE!?

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I'm the lead actress!
A- ANYWAY, I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D STAY HERE FOR A WHILE
They said the Duke's daughter I'm to meet is sitting in the box over there
My, My!
Shoo!
Well I guess it's all right We were gonna to turn down the proposal anyway
Hm!
ROSE?
DANG IT, ROSE, WHERE ARE YOU?
AUNTIE ROSE!?
AAAH THERE'S NO HELP FOR IT!
Grab
JACK, YOU PLAY ROSE'S PART!!
WHAT!?
DIRECTOR, WE'LL HAVE TO GET THE CURTAIN UP SOON
A GHOST!?
YOU'RE PLAYING A GHOST
Hey! Make-up!

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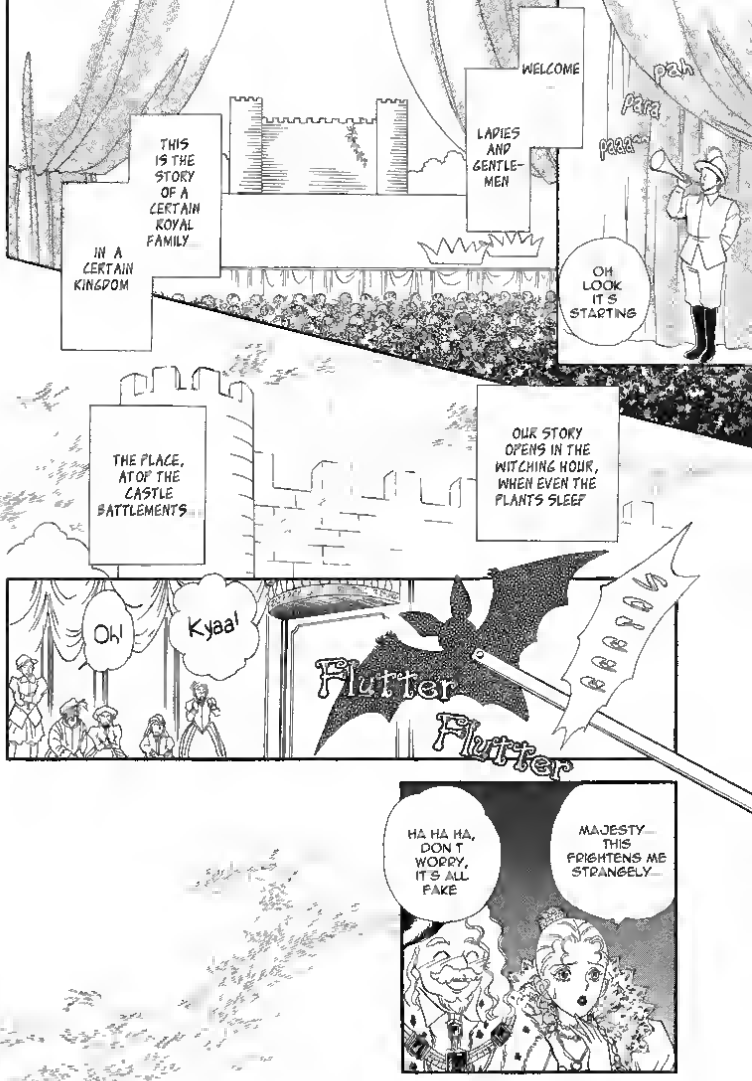
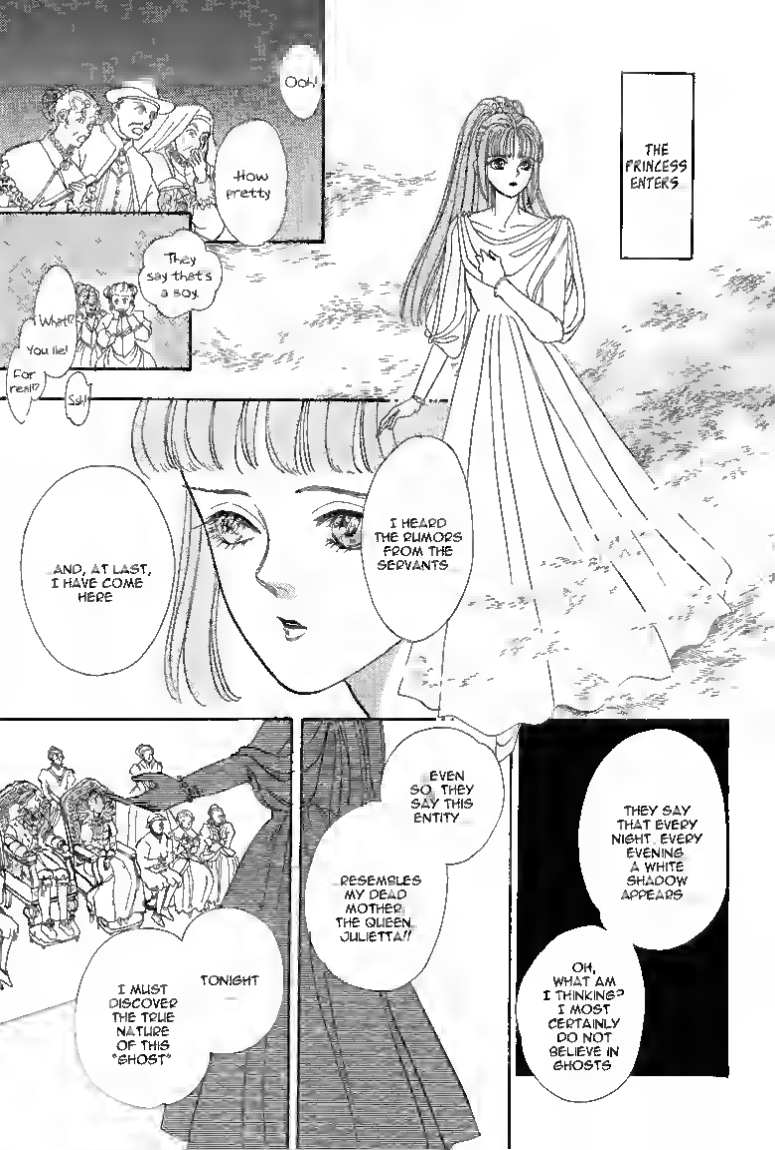
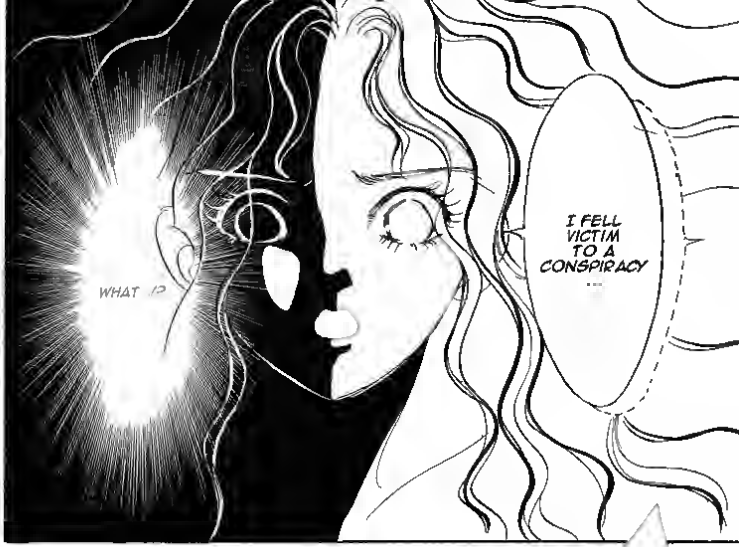
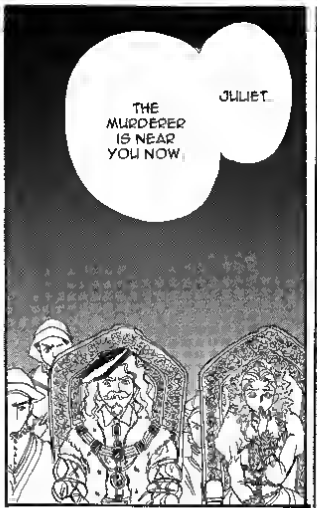

IN A CERTAIN KINGDOM
THIS IS THE STORY OF A CERTAIN ROYAL FAMILY
WELCOME LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
pah
para
para
OH LOOK IT'S STARTING
THE PLACE, AT OF THE CASTLE BATTLEMENTS
OUR STORY OPENS IN THE WITCHING HOUR, WHEN EVEN THE PLANTS SLEEP
Oh!
Kyaa!
Flutter
Flutter
HA HA HA, DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALL FAKE
MAJESTY THIS FRIGHTENS ME STRANGELY

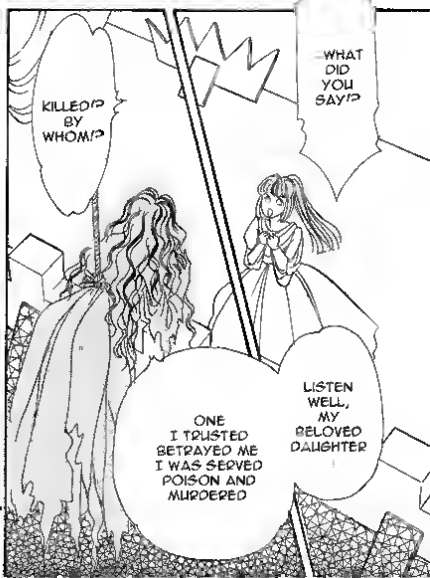

Ooh!
How pretty
They say that's a boy.
What?
You lie!
For real?
Sh!
THE PRINCESS ENTERS
AND, AT LAST, I HAVE COME HERE
I HEARD THE RUMORS FROM THE SERVANTS
EVEN SO, THEY SAY THIS ENTITY
RESEMBLES MY DEAD MOTHER, THE QUEEN, JULIETTA!!
I MUST DISCOVER THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS "GHOST"
TONIGHT
THEY SAY THAT EVERY NIGHT, EVERY EVENING, A WHITE SHADOW APPEARS
OH, WHAT AM I THINKING? I MOST CERTAINLY DO NOT BELIEVE IN GHOSTS

OH, HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE, MOST HORRIBLE
AH... YET TAKE HEART, JULIET!!
EVEN IF IT IS A SPIRIT FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE
...IF IT IS THAT OF MY MOTHER, I SHALL NOT FEAR
...ET...
JUL. ET...
JULIET!!
KYAA!
THERE'S SOME-ONE FLOATING OVER THERE!
OOH!

Juliet... my beloved daughter
The lines! Feel her the lines
Gyaa~ This rope is cutting into me~~
RATTLE
RATTLE
JU JULIET, MY BELOVED DAUGHTER
MOTHER!
Deal with it!
Hey.. That's my part
MY POOR MOTHER, DEAD AFTER SUCH A LONG AND PAINFUL ILLNESS
GOD, PLEASE GUIDE MY MOTHER'S SOUL TO HEAVEN
No, I cannot go
NO, I CANNOT GO PEACEFULLY TO HEAVEN
My beloved daughter
MY BELOVED DAUGHTER, LISTEN WELL.
'TWAS NOT ILLNESS THAT CAUSED MY DEATH





WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
KILLED!? BY WHOM!?
LISTEN WELL, MY BELOVED DAUGHTER
ONE I TRUSTED BETRAYED ME I WAS SERVED POISON AND MURDERED

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THAT WOMAN PUT POISON IN MY FOOD A LITTLE EVERY DAY
AS I WEAKENED SHE PLAYED NURSE TO ME
IN THE END, THE DAGGER OF BETRAYAL WAS THRUST INTO MY HEART
AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, ON MY VERY FUNERAL NIGHT THE SHAMELESS WOMAN STOLE INTO THE BEDCHAMBER OF MY NOW-WIDOWED KING
SHE LURED THE PROUD KING, MY DARLING HUSBAND, INTO A BED OF ADULTERY!!
TO THINK THAT FATHER WOULD FALL PREY TO SUCH MACHINATIONS...
Murmur
Murmur
HEY, DOESN'T THIS SOUND... ...LIKE WHAT HAPPENED WITH LADY MARY AND THE DUKE?
No... It couldn't be...

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EXCEL-LENCY!!
THIS IS ABOMINABLE! STOP IT AT ONCE!!
WHA WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THIS PLAY!?
IT IS TRUE THAT MY FATHER HAS IGNORED THE CRIES THE PEOPLE RAISED IN OPPOSITION TO HIS IMPRUDENT REMARRIAGE ...
...and spends his days drowning in lust for his new wife.
WHAT'S MORE, HIS MAJESTY IS PLOTTING TO DO AWAY WITH YOU, HIS TRUE DAUGHTER ...
...AND INSTALL HIS BASTARD SON, BORN OF HIS SECOND WIFE, ON THE THRONE...!!
FATHER!!
...I MEAN, MY HUSBAND...
PLEASE, OPEN YOUR EYES...
The curtain!
Bring the curtain down!!

HEAR THE VOICE OF ONE WHO TRULY LOVES YOU
THE TRUTH ...
SEE THE TRUTH WITH YOUR OWN EYES!!
LOOK THE ACTOR'S FACE
LOOKS QUITE LIKE THAT OF THE LATE DUCHESS
IS THAT REALLY THE GHOST OF THE DUCHESS ...?
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE

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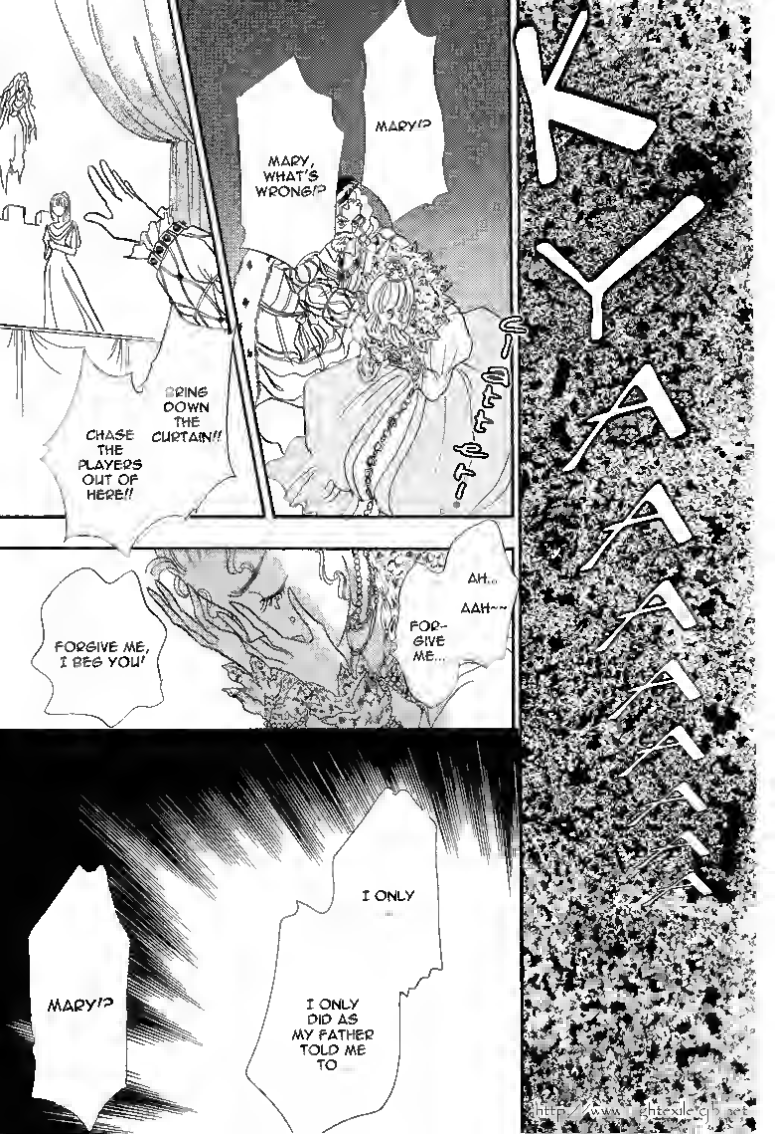
Rumble
Rumble
!!
I KNOW THAT HEAVEN WILL MEET OUT ITS PUNISHMENT TO THE WICKED IN DUE COURSE ...
BECAUSE GOD SEES THROUGH EVERYTHING!



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MARY!?
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WHAT I GAVE YOUR WIFE WAS POISON!!
I ONLY DID AS MY FATHER ORDERED!
AH, BUT GOD MUST KNOW!
NOW THEN, EVERY-ONE!!
TAKE A LOOK AT OUR NEXT APPEARING CHARACTER!
MY MY DAUGHTER'S BEEN CAUGHT UP IN THE PLAY'S ATMOSPHERE
SHE'S CONFUSED
ROYDELL, YOU WRETCH
There was nothing in this ballroom to begin with

THIS GENTLEMAN IS THE PERSONAL CHEMIST WHO PREPARED THE POISON
NOW LET'S HAVE A COMPLETE EXPLANATION OF THE CASE FROM YOUR OWN LIPS, SHALL WE?
.....
HA
HA~~

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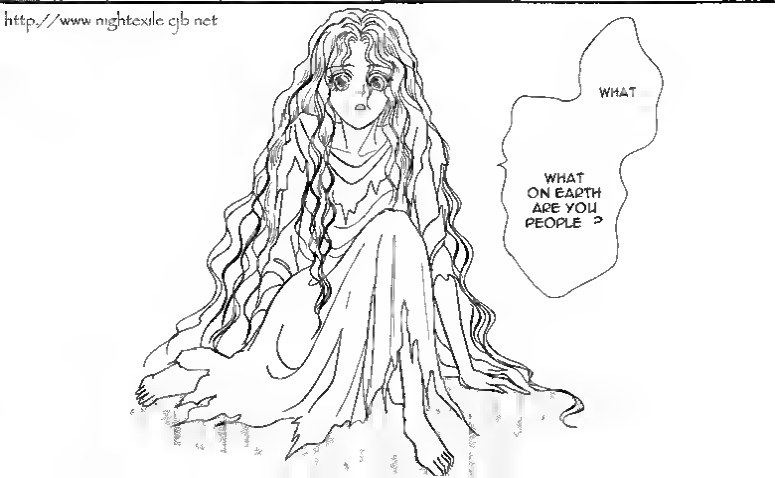

The Queen's Glove
WE DISGUISE OURSELVES AS A BAND OF TRAVELING PLAYERS TO FOOL THE EYES OF THE WORLD
WE ARE "THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD MINISTER'S PLAYERS", AND WE MOVE BY DIRECT ORDER OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN!

THEN, TOO, SHE WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT HER ONE AND ONLY BLOOD-RELATED NIECE, PRINCESS JACQUELINE
HER MAJESTY FOUND THE SUDDEN DEATH OF HER YOUNGER SISTER SUSPICIOUS
AS A RESULT, WE CAME TO THIS TERRITORY IN SECRET, TO INVESTIGATE WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE
AH
THEN THAT MEANS
You jerk!! You're just lucky the play went well we coulda
Where the heck were you!?
Ah-- Rose!!
Guys! ♥
Princess! Are you all right?
CONSIDERING OUR EFFORTS, IT MIGHT NOT BE OUT OF PLACE FOR HER TO REWARD US WITH A KISS
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS THIS ALL-IMPORTANT PRINCESS!?
Slump

AH HA HA HA HA HA!

AH HA ...

PRIN-CESS ?

clatter

rattle

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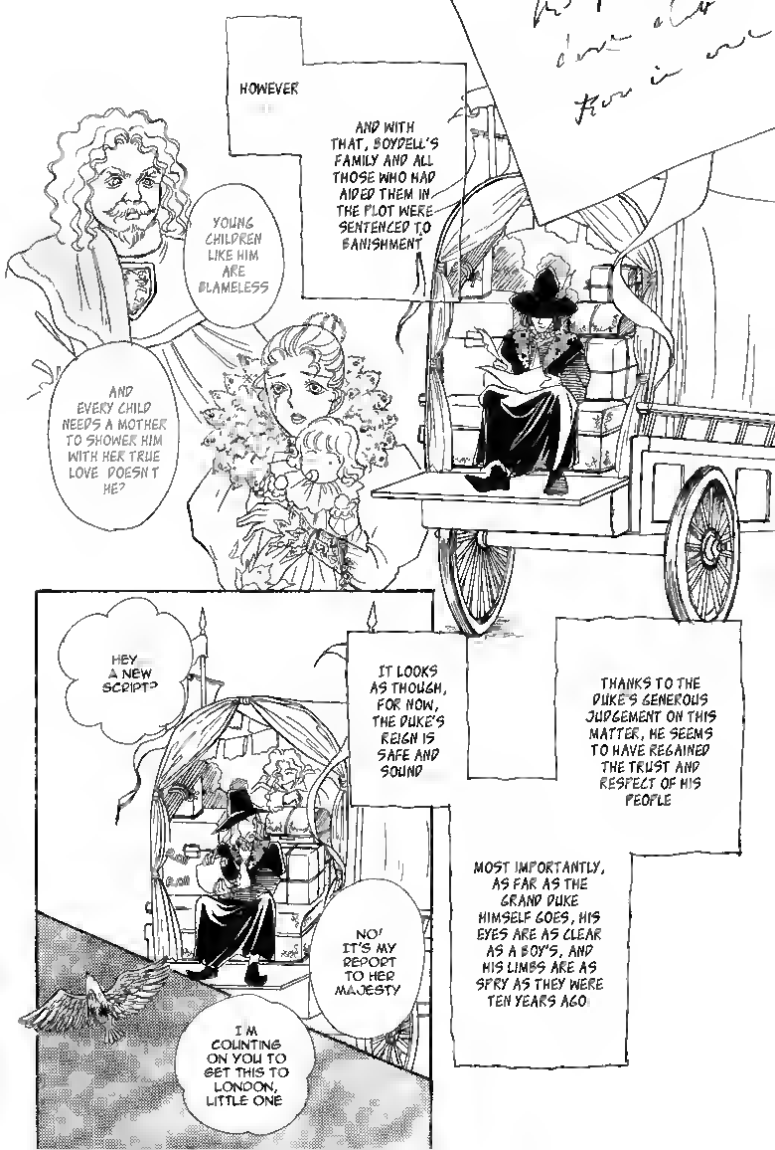
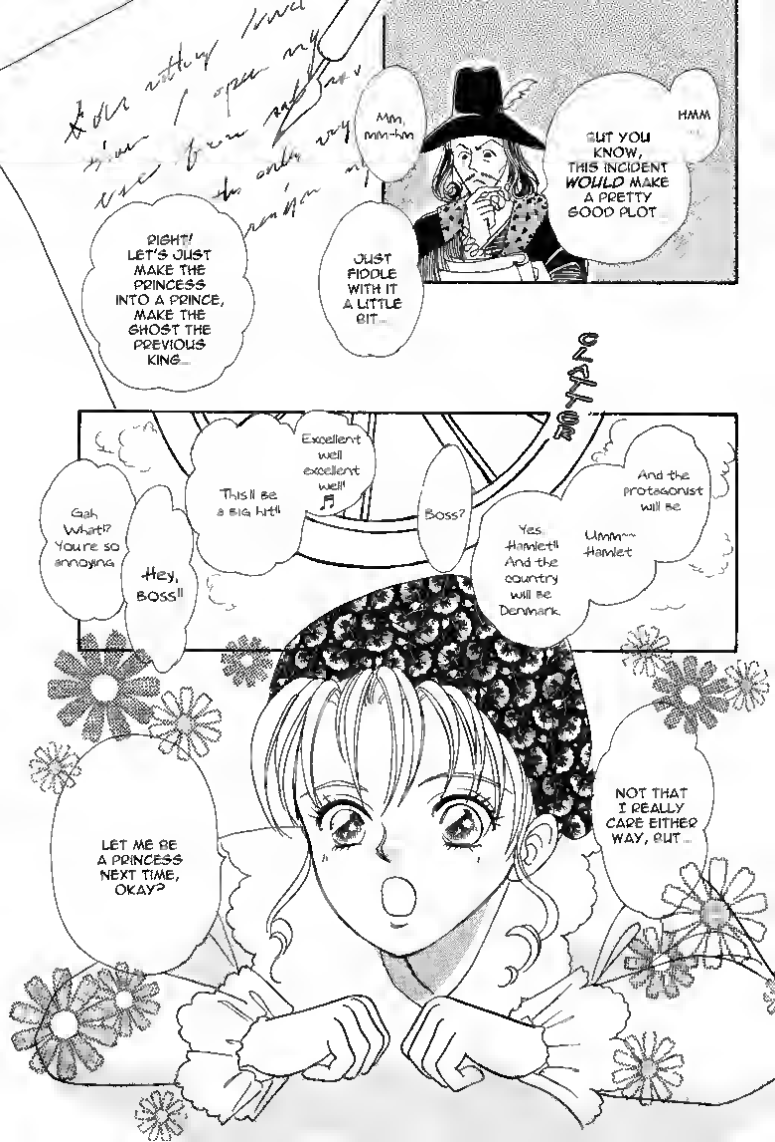
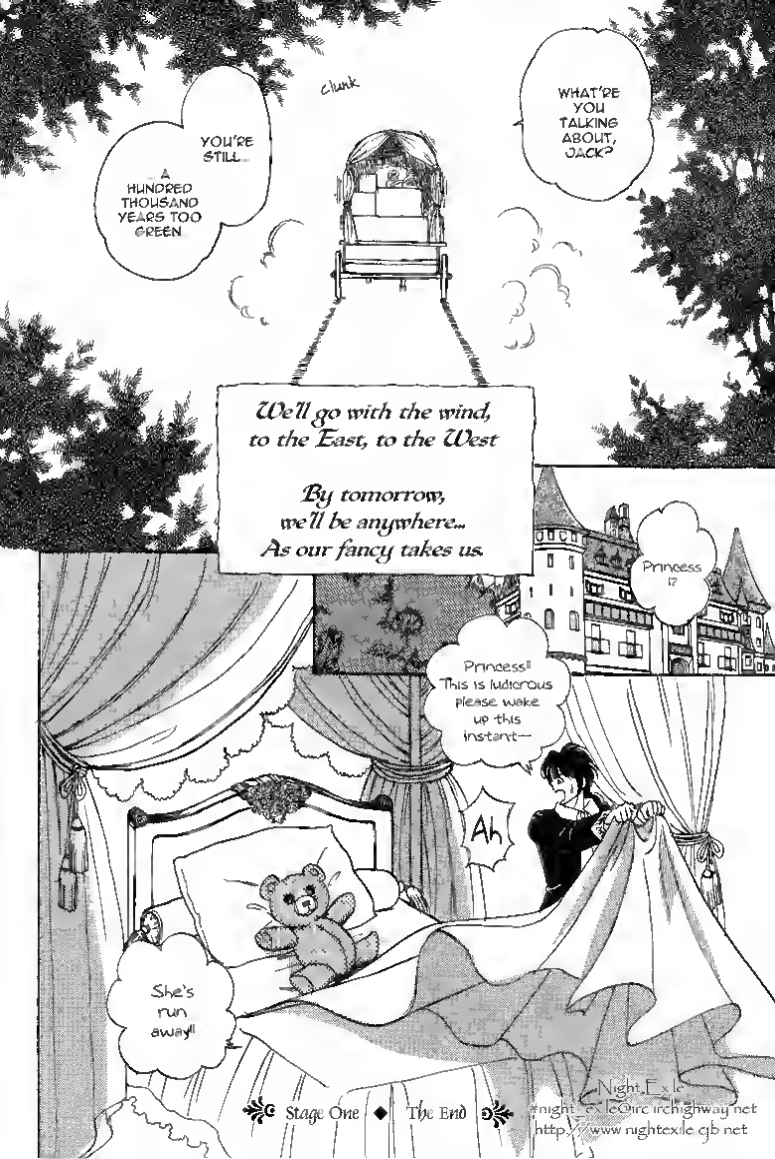

HOWEVER
AND WITH THAT, BOYDELL'S FAMILY AND ALL THOSE WHO HAD AIDED THEM IN THE PLOT WERE SENTENCED TO BANISHMENT
YOUNG CHILDREN LIKE HIM ARE BLAMELESS
AND EVERY CHILD NEEDS A MOTHER TO SHOWER HIM WITH HER TRUE LOVE DOESN'T HE?
HEY A NEW SCRIPT?
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH, FOR NOW, THE DUKE'S REIGN IS SAFE AND SOUND
THANKS TO THE DUKE'S GENEROUS JUDGEMENT ON THIS MATTER, HE SEEMS TO HAVE REGAINED THE TRUST AND RESPECT OF HIS PEOPLE
MOST IMPORTANTLY, AS FAR AS THE GRAND DUKE HIMSELF GOES, HIS EYES ARE AS CLEAR AS A BOY'S, AND HIS LIMBS ARE AS SPRY AS THEY WERE TEN YEARS AGO
NO! IT'S MY REPORT TO HER MAJESTY
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO GET THIS TO LONDON, LITTLE ONE


Mm, mm-hm
HMM
BUT YOU KNOW, THIS INCIDENT WOULD MAKE A PRETTY GOOD PLOT
JUST FIDDLE WITH IT A LITTLE BIT...
RIGHT! LET'S JUST MAKE THE PRINCESS INTO A PRINCE, MAKE THE GHOST THE PREVIOUS KING...
ONE HOUR LATER
Excellent well excellent well!
This'll be a big hit!
Boss?
And the protagonist will be
Umm... Hamlet
Yes, Hamlet! And the country will be Denmark.
Gah, What!? You're so annoying
Hey, BOSS!!
NOT THAT I REALLY CARE EITHER WAY, BUT...
LET ME BE A PRINCESS NEXT TIME, OKAY?


WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, JACK?
clunk
YOU'RE STILL... A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS TOO GREEN
We'll go with the wind, to the East, to the West
By tomorrow, we'll be anywhere... As our fancy takes us.
Princess 17
Princess!! This is ludicrous please wake up this instant—
Ah
She's run away!!



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WHAAAT!??
W- MISSED NIGHT EXILE'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION??
WELL.... BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, RIGHT? *SWEATDROP*
MANGAKA: AKINO MATSURI
SCANNER/ CLEANER/ Q.C.ER: SCARLETXD
TRANSLATOR: EMILY
Q.C.ER: SYZYGY
PROOFREADER/ EDITOR: PASHA
PLEASE SUPPORT AKINO MATSURI AND BUY HER BOOKS!!

Happy Birthday
ScarletXD !!!
"belated T_T"

Happy Birthday, Quethiril!!
2006
-We're celebrating for you!
Best wishes,
hugs and kisses XD
~Night Exile~

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Q&ER: SYLVIE
SCANNER: SCARLETXD

# Oki ni mesu mama (As you like it)

## by Akino Matsuri

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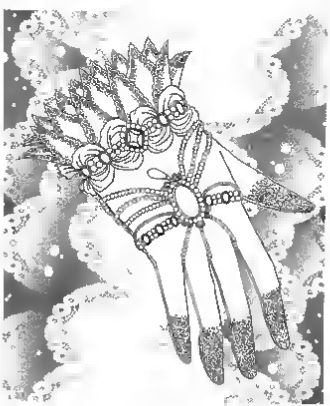

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"The Queen's Glove" from London is here!
The acting troupes here!!
WE'LL FATTEN OUR WALLETS SLEEP IN FINE QUARTERS, AND I THINK WE MAY EXPECT GREAT THINGS OF THE FOOD
THIS TIME, WE'RE THE ENTERTAINMENT FOR A DANCE AT THE MARQUIS HOUSE
CAN I BE THE PRINCESS THIS TIME!?
HEY, BOSS...

RUB RUB
JACK.
ARE YOU STILL ON ABOUT THAT?
JUST BECAUSE ONLY BOYS WHOSE VOICES HAVEN'T CHANGED GET FEMALE ROLES
...DOESN'T MEAN JUST ANY KID CAN PLAY 'EM
Woof!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'D HAVE TO BE BEAUTIFUL AND SEXY LIKE ME.
ROSE, YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY A SPRING CHICKEN ANYMORE.
ANYWAY!! JACK, THE ROLE OF "PRINCESS" IS STILL WAY, WAY OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE
AAAGH

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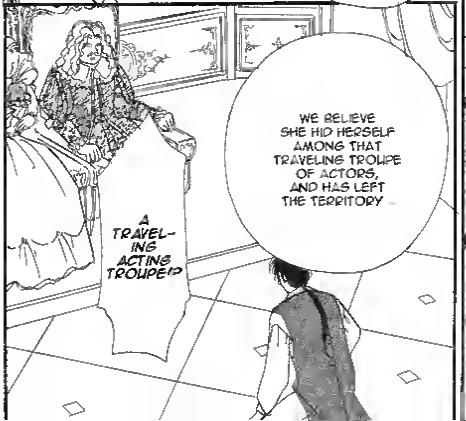
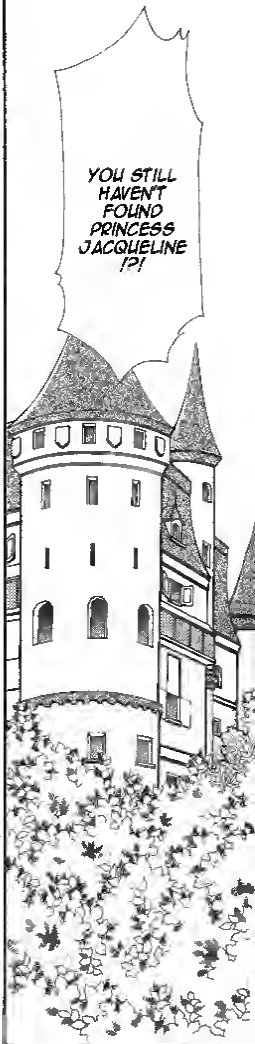
RATTLE RATTLE
WAIT...
WHAA!? REALLY!?
BOSS?
YES. JUST A MOMENT... JACK. I THINK WE CAN LET YOU HAVE THE ROLE OF A PRINCESS IN THIS PLAY
AND IT'S THE LEAD, TOO
IN OUR NEW PLAY, THE ONE WE'LL PERFORM AT THE CASTLE TOMORROW NIGHT, THERE ARE TWO PRINCESSES.
ONE... OF COURSE, WILL BE MARLOWE.
AND THE OTHER ONE... JACK...
...WILL BE YOU.

I'VE CHECKED EVERY CORNER OF THE TERRITORY BUT
NO, MILORD SHE ISN'T IN THE CASTLE OF COURSE

MAJESTY...
HARUMPH! SO, IT'S AS I FEARED BECAUSE I ACTED FOOLISHLY AND UPSET HER, SHE RAN AWAY...?

NO, I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE...


WE BELIEVE SHE HID HERSELF AMONG THAT TRAVELING TROUPE OF ACTORS, AND HAS LEFT THE TERRITORY...
A TRAVELING ACTING TROUPE!?


YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND PRINCESS JACQUELINE!?!

IT'S THANKS TO THEM THAT MY BROTHER-IN-LAW'S POLITICAL SCHEMES WERE FOILED AND MY OWN EYES OPENED. BUT—
BUT IN REALITY, THEY TRAVEL ALL OVER AS SPIES ON THE ORDERS OF THE QUEEN
AT FIRST GLANCE THEY SEEM TO BE POOR, LOWLY ACTORS.
THAT TROUPE "THE QUEEN'S GLOVE"[1]?
RI— RIGHT
THAT SAID JACQUELINE IS STILL A CHILD, AND STILL MY DAUGHTER IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO HER THERE WILL BE CONSEQUENCES
ANDREW!! DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO JUST FIND JACQUELINE AND BRING HER HOME SAFELY!!

[1]I don't know what they're paying Andrew but it's not nearly enough ! Emily

*Seconded!! - Rasha

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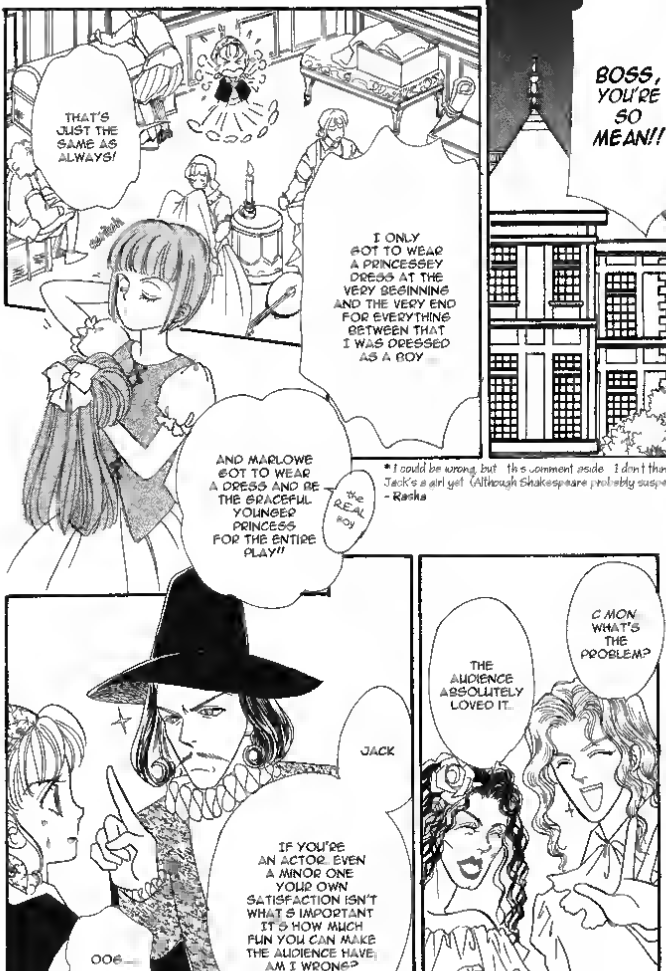
JUST THINK OF ME AS YOUR LOVER AND PRETEND TO COURT ME...
I CAN CURE THIS LOVESICKNESS OF YOURS YOUNG MAN
AH, BEAUTIFUL YOUNG SHEPHERD!
IF YOU WERE MY TRUE BELOVED I WOULD KISS YOU BEFORE SAYING ANYTHING



* This is a scene from the play "As You Like It" The main character Rosaline gets banished, dresses up as a man, meets the man she fell in love with in Act One and decides to test his love by being as mean to him as possible. This scene (3.2) is where he agrees to the plan. - Emily

HOLD IT. I'M A MAN, REMEMBER? YOU'RE GETTING AHEAD OF YOURSELF.
GRIN
BUT ALL THE "PRINCESS" ROLES ARE PLAYED BY BOYS AREN'T THEY?
THAT YOUNG MAN DOESN'T REALIZE THE SHEPHERD BOY IS REALLY THE WOMAN HE'S IN LOVE WITH, DRESSED AS A MAN
Tee hee
SO YOU MEAN... A BOY DRESSED AS A GIRL IS PLAYING A GIRL DRESSED AS A BOY...?
Aah, I'm so confused!
Wah ha ha ha
HA HA HA! BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES THIS PLAY SO INTERESTING!
GAAAH~!! I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ANYMORE~~!
AND ON TOP OF ALL THAT, I'M ACTUALLY A GIRL


BOSS, YOU'RE SO MEAN!!
THAT'S JUST THE SAME AS ALWAYS!
I ONLY GOT TO WEAR A PRINCESSEY DRESS AT THE VERY BEGINNING AND THE VERY END FOR EVERYTHING BETWEEN THAT I WAS DRESSED AS A BOY
AND MARLOWE GOT TO WEAR A DRESS AND BE THE GRACEFUL YOUNGER PRINCESS FOR THE ENTIRE PLAY!!
the REAL boy
JACK
IF YOU'RE AN ACTOR, EVEN A MINOR ONE YOUR OWN SATISFACTION ISN'T WHAT'S IMPORTANT IT'S HOW MUCH FUN YOU CAN MAKE THE AUDIENCE HAVE! AM I WRONG?
OOE...
C'MON WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
THE AUDIENCE ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT.

* I could be wrong, but this comment aside, I don't think they know Jack's a girl yet (Although Shakespeare probably suspects/knows.) - Rasha

TRAVELING AROUND LIKE THIS BEING ABLE TO GO TO SO MANY DIFFERENT PLACES
IT'S TRUE
I DON'T HATE PLAYS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT
BUT YOU KNOW...
I CHOSE THAT JOB MYSELF TOO
Ha Ha Ha Ha
TONIGHT'S AUDIENCE WAS FULL OF HOT YOUNG WOMEN, WASN'T IT?
I GIVE IT TOP MARKS ♡
OH THAT'S BECAUSE...
Lady Keller
BUT! IF THIS KEEPS UP I'LL NEVER BECOME A LADY SUITABLE FOR RAYMOND~~~

HUH

COME TO THINK OF IT, I THINK OUR PLACE GOT AN INVITATION TO THIS THING TOO

ALTHOUGH I'VE GOT NO INTEREST IN A MAMA'S BOY PRINCE LIKE HIM, SO I DIDN'T EVEN BREAK THE SEAL.

OFFICIALLY, THESE DANCES EVERY NIGHT ARE BEING HELD IN HONOR OF PRINCE CELIA'S 18TH BIRTHDAY

IN REALITY, THOUGH, THEY'RE TO GET ALL THE ELIGIBLE YOUNG WOMEN IN ONE PLACE SO HE CAN CHOOSE HIS BRIDE

* What two steel monster names their son Cel a?? - Emily

THE MARQUIS IS ALREADY OLD AND WEAKENED BY ILLNESS

APPARENTLY THIS IS ALL A PLAN BY HIS SECOND WIFE, MARGO! TO HAVE HER ONLY SON CELIA, MARRY AND USE THAT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO OFFICIALLY HAVE THE TITLE HANDED OVER TO HIM

WHICH IS WHY ALL NOBLE WOMEN OF MARRIAGEABLE AGE HAVE BEEN INVITED HERE

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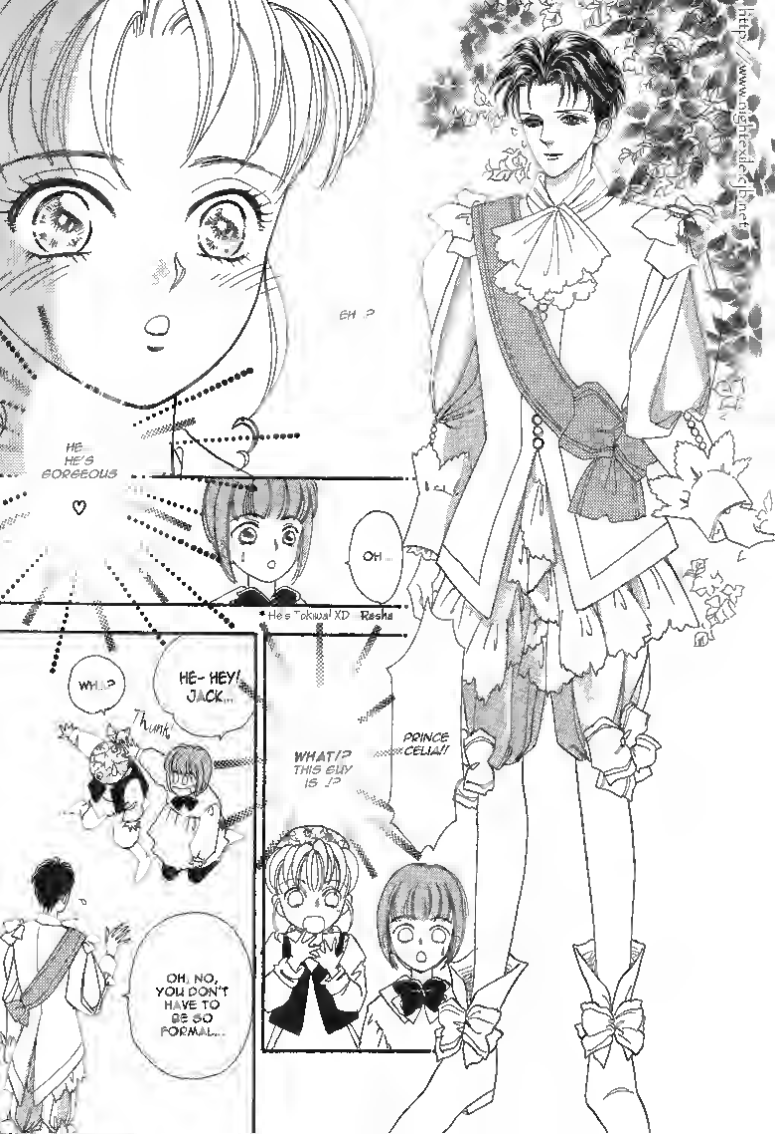

THANK YOU SO MUCH!
O-OH!
I FOUND TONIGHT'S PLAY QUITE ENTERTAINING.
DARN IT! IF I'D KNOWN THE PRINCE WAS THIS GORGEOUS, I WOULD'VE COME TO THE "BRIDE-CHOOSING" PARTY----
CELIA-SAMA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
PRINCE?
OH--!
YOU TWO SHOULD GO TO THE OTHER END OF THE HALL, TOO, GET SOMETHING TO EAT
Thank you!

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR PRINCE CELIA HE WENT THAT WAY
THANK YOU, BOYS
OH, I SEE
OH, PRINCE! ♡
PHEW~
YOU'VE SAVED ME. THANK YOU
ALL CLEAR
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM THE PRINCESSES ANYWAY?
WEREN'T THERE ANY WHO CAUGHT YOUR HIGHNESS' FANCY?
It was nothing.
I... IT ISN'T THAT EXACTLY...
—

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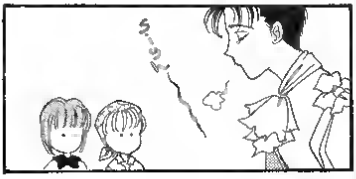
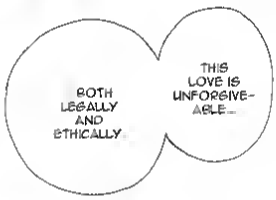
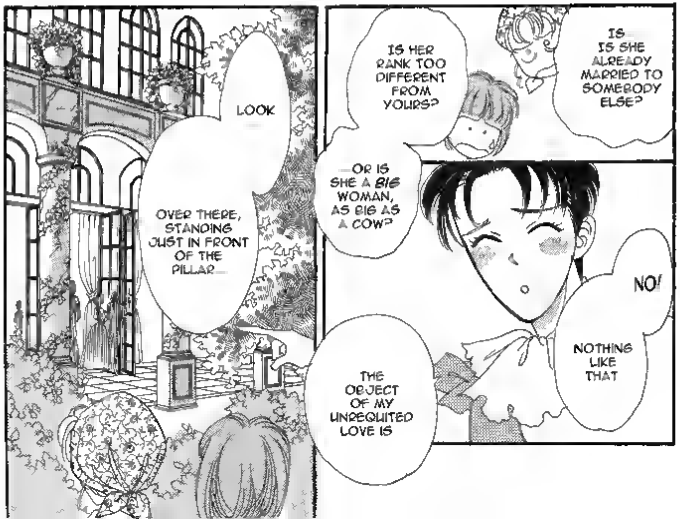


IF A MAN AS CHARMING AS YOURSELF CONFESSED HIS LOVE TO HER, MY PRINCE, THERE'S NOT A WOMAN ANYWHERE WHO'D REFUSE YOU!
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT...
I... IS THAT ALL?
IF THAT'S SO, YOU SHOULD JUST BUCKLE DOWN AND CONFESS YOUR LOVE!


BOTH LEGALLY AND ETHICALLY...
THIS LOVE IS UNFORGIVE-ABLE...


LOOK...
OVER THERE, STANDING JUST IN FRONT OF THE PILLAR...
IS HER RANK TOO DIFFERENT FROM YOURS?
...OR IS SHE A BIG WOMAN, AS BIG AS A COW?
IS... IS SHE ALREADY MARRIED TO SOMEBODY ELSE?
NO!
NOTHING LIKE THAT
THE OBJECT OF MY UNREQUITED LOVE IS

That's
Trouble
HIS NAME IS OLIVER
HE'S THE GREATEST SWORDSMAN IN THE COUNTRY...
*"Oliver" is the name of the eldest prince in "As You Like It" - Emily
A GUY!!!
YOU SEE...?
IT REALLY IS HOPELESS, ISN'T IT?

*Jack actually says "Monkey" (Saruwa!) first. Hmm. It must've meant to "Jealous" (Ya-kichi) (I have Ameru) seem to be a Freudian slip that works Not well in English, so ) **Rieko**

PRINCE
NO ONE WILL ALLOW THIS LOVE
NO EVEN WORSE, GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE ME FOR IT
HECK I EVEN KNOW A GUY WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH MARLOWE AT FIRST SIGHT!
WHY, I BET IN FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OR SO GAY COUPLES WILL BE ABLE TO WALK OPENLY AND CONFIDENTLY IN PARADES...
AUGH
THA
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!!
IN ANCIENT ROME, GAY LOVE WAS A STATUS SYMBOL OF THE NOBILITY
THERE'LL PROBABLY EVEN BE BEST-SELLING NOVELS ABOUT IT...
WHEN DID THIS BEGIN?
WHEN DID I FIRST REALIZE THAT MY FEELINGS WERE, NOT "FRIENDSHIP", BUT "LOVE"...?
THANK YOU
YOUR WORDS HAVE HEARTENED ME SOME

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IF I, AS A MAN, CONFESSED MY FEELINGS TO HIM, IT MIGHT ONLY CAUSE HIM TROUBLE
HE MIGHT SCORN ME
HE MIGHT HATE ME
AND THEN A LOVE LIKE THIS WOULD LEAD TO SCANDAL
IT WOULD BRING DISGRACE TO HIM
THAT'S WHY I PLANNED TO ALWAYS KEEP MY FEELINGS A SECRET
BUT...
...THE PRINCESS WHO WILL BECOME MY BRIDE, NOT KNOWING WH. T I RE..LLY AM, IS MORE PITI..LE STILL.
PRINCE YOU'RE EVEN CONSIDERING THE FEELINGS OF YOUR FUTURE BRIDE...
"Deeply Moved"
CELIA?
CELIA, WHERE ARE YOU? YOU'RE NEGLECTING THE LADIES...
IT'S MY MOTHER.
I HAVE TO GO.

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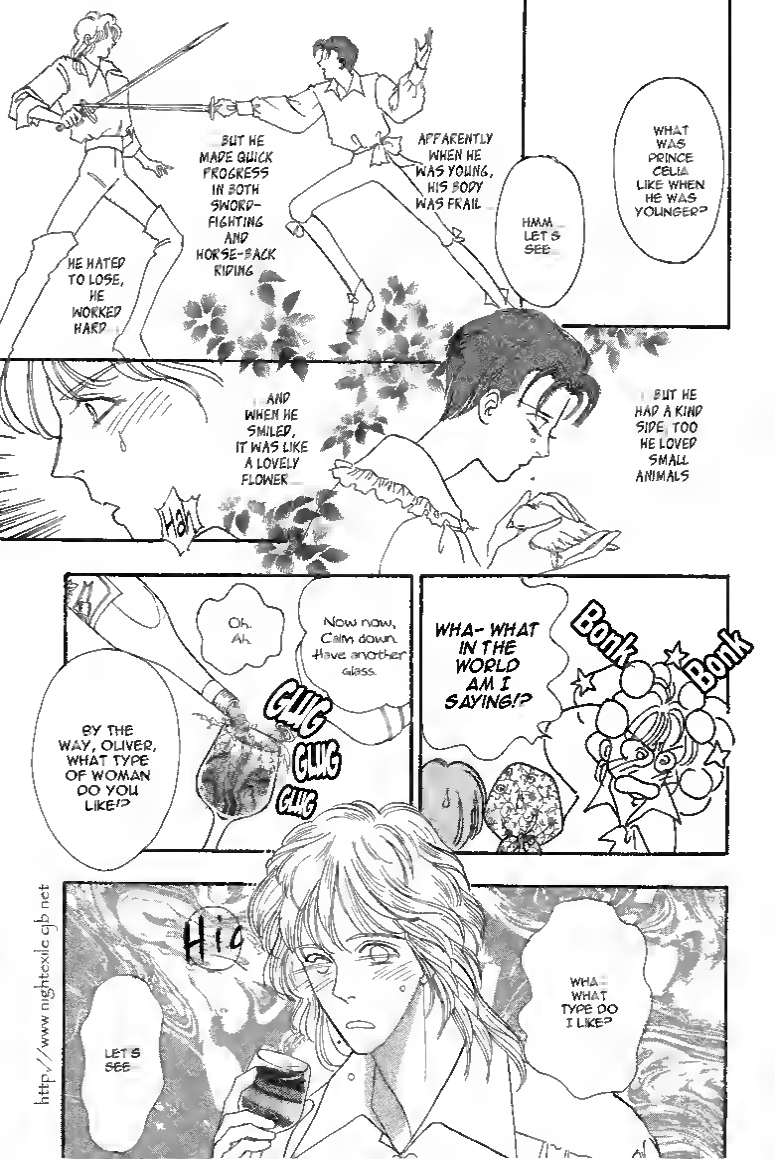
PLEASE KEEP ALL THIS A SECRET YOU TWO
OF COURSE!
IT'S A PROMISE BETWEEN MEN!
Aaaaaaaw
This can't be good.
I'M GOING TO SUPPORT THIS FORBIDDEN LOVE, ALL THE WAY--!
HE'S HANDSOME HE DIDN'T DISCRIMINATE AGAINST US PLAYERS.
WHAT A WONDERFUL GUY!
AND ON TOP OF THAT HE'S DEEPLY IN LOVE
EEP

* I think in another life Jacqueline will dye her hair red, marry a Cuban band leader and constantly have some explaining to do. — Emily
COME NOW, OLIVER HAVE ANOTHER ROUND.
WOW... YOU HOLD YOUR LIQUOR LIKE A MAN!
WHAT? NAW. I'M NOT THAT GOOD.
YOUR REPUTATION SAYS THAT YOU ARE BRAVE AND WELL-BRED NOT TO MENTION THE BEST KNIGHT IN THE LAND.
Why am I here...
PRINCE CELIA TOLD US YOU'RE HIS MOST TRUSTWORTHY FRIEND.
PRINCE CELIA SAID THAT?
HE'S SOMEONE WHO REALLY DESERVES TO BE HAPPY...
YE YEAH.
I TRULY HOPE THE PRINCE FINDS A WONDERFUL BRIDE FOR HIMSELF, DON'T YOU?


WHAT WAS PRINCE CELIA LIKE WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER?
HMM... LET'S SEE...
APPARENTLY WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, HIS BODY WAS FRAIL
BUT HE MADE QUICK PROGRESS IN BOTH SWORD-FIGHTING AND HORSE-BACK RIDING
HE HATED TO LOSE, HE WORKED HARD
BUT HE HAD A KIND SIDE, TOO HE LOVED SMALL ANIMALS
AND WHEN HE SMILED, IT WAS LIKE A LOVELY FLOWER...
Ha!
WHA- WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I SAYING!?
Bonk
Bonk
Now now, Calm down. Have another glass.
Oh, Ah.
GUG
GUG
GUG
BY THE WAY, OLIVER, WHAT TYPE OF WOMAN DO YOU LIKE!?
WHA... WHAT TYPE DO I LIKE?
Hic
LET'S SEE

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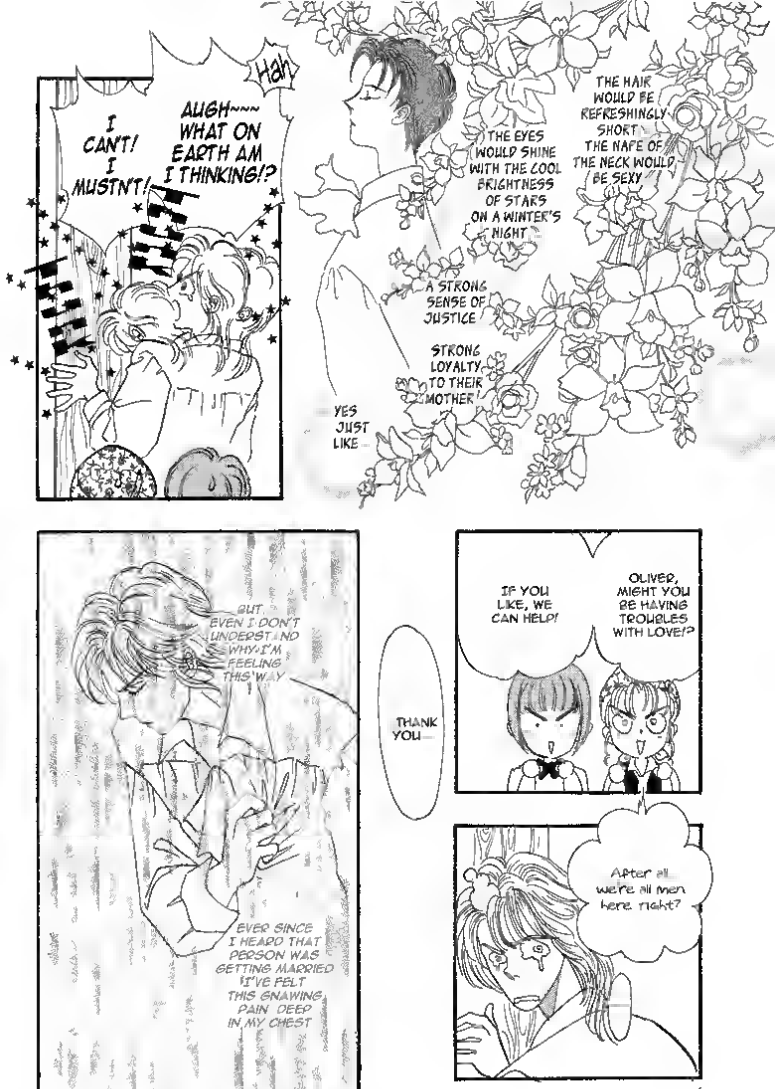
Hah
I CAN'T! I MUSTN'T!
AUGH~~~ WHAT ON EARTH AM I THINKING!?
THE EYES WOULD SHINE WITH THE COOL BRIGHTNESS OF STARS ON A WINTER'S NIGHT
THE HAIR WOULD BE REFRESHINGLY SHORT
THE NAPE OF THE NECK WOULD BE SEXY
A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE
STRONG LOYALTY TO THEIR MOTHER
YES JUST LIKE—
BUT EVEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I'M FEELING THIS WAY
EVER SINCE I HEARD THAT PERSON WAS GETTING MARRIED I'VE FELT THIS GNAWING PAIN DEEP IN MY CHEST
IF YOU LIKE, WE CAN HELP!
OLIVER, MIGHT YOU BE HAVING TROUBLES WITH LOVE!?
THANK YOU—
After all, we're all men here right?

I JUST WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY
PRINCE CELIA...
TROUBLE IS NECESSARY TO LOVE!!
YAY! NOW WE CAN HAVE A HAPPY ENDING!
HUH? SO IT'S RECIPROCAL AFTER ALL.
SNORE
SNRK
MOPON YOU THINK IT'LL BE THAT EASY?
IF THIS BECOMES PUBLIC, THEIR FAMILIES WILL CUT ALL TIES WITH BOTH OF THEM
AN ILLICIT LOVE AFFAIR BETWEEN THE MARQUIS'S HEIR AND THE COUNTRY'S BEST SOLDIER?
THE HIGHER THE WALL, THE HIGHER THE FLAMES OF LOVE WILL BURN!!

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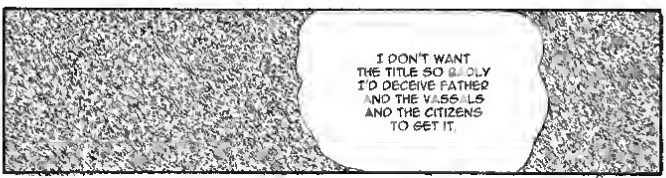
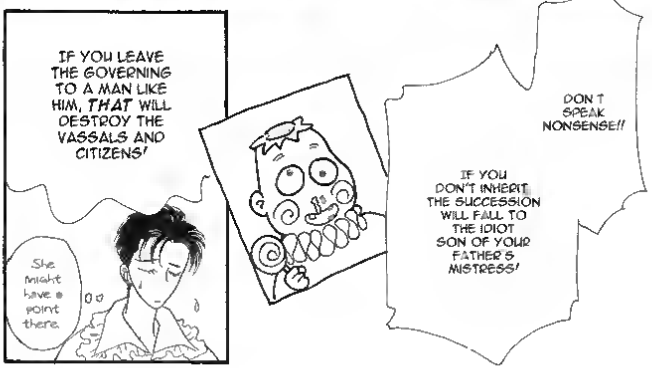
CELIA?
DID YOU FIND A GIRL YOU LIKED?
MOTHER
THIS MARRIAGE... I REALLY DON'T THINK I CAN...
SILENCE!!
MARRIAGE WITHOUT LOVE IS JUST THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET THE TITLE TRUST YOUR MOTHER TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING AFTER THAT
THE MARQUIS DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT, IN ANY CASE

*A marchioness is the wife of a marquis. Emily





IF YOU LEAVE THE GOVERNING TO A MAN LIKE HIM, THAT WILL DESTROY THE VASSALS AND CITIZENS!
She might have a point there.
DON'T SPEAK NONSENSE!!
IF YOU DON'T INHERIT, THE SUCCESSION WILL FALL TO THE IDIOT SON OF YOUR FATHER'S MISTRESS!

ALL MY EFFORTS UP TILL NOW...
ALL I'VE ENDURED ...
WHAT WILL MY LIFE HAVE BEEN FOR ...?
BESIDES, JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BECOME OF ME IF YOU DON'T BECOME MARQUIS?
MOTHER ...

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PRINCE CELIL
HELLO YOU TWO ARE CUTE FAIRIES TODAY THEN?
IT MUST BE NICE TO BE PERFORMERS
YOU CAN BE MEN OR WOMEN
SOMETIMES YOU CAN EVEN OVERCOME GENDER ENTIRELY BECOMING ANGELS
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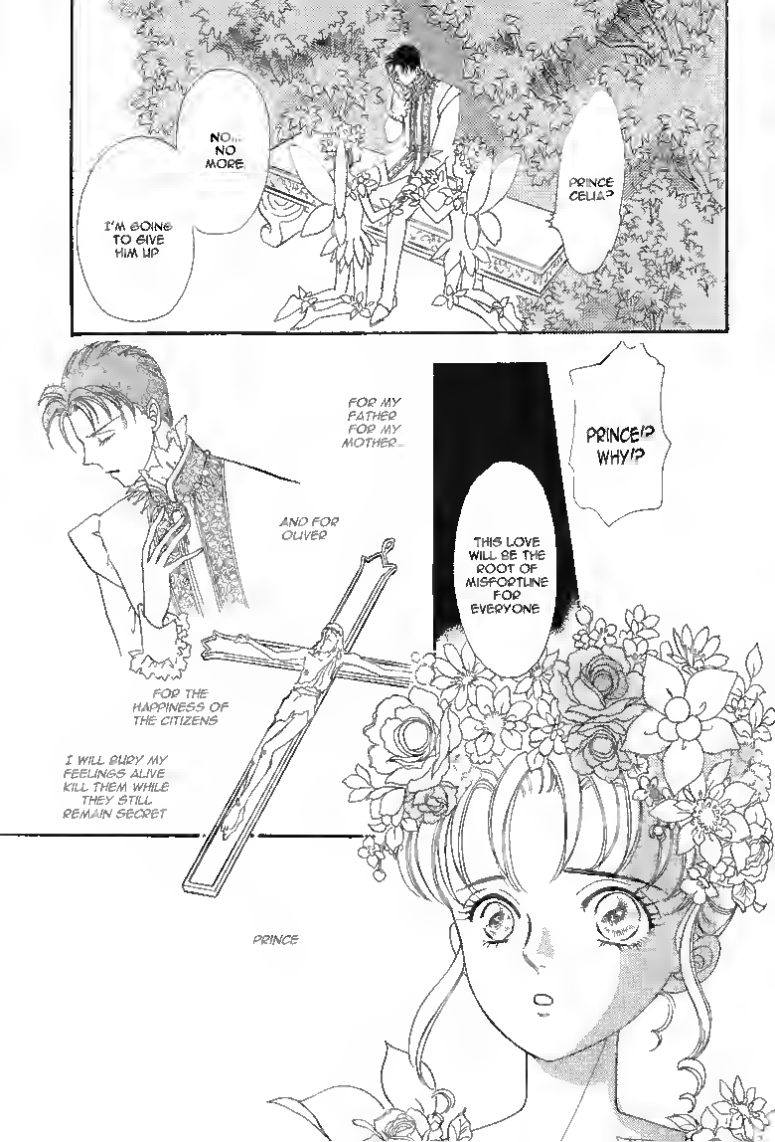
WE SELL FLATTERY TO AUDIENCES EVERY DAY, JUST SO THAT WE CAN EAT.
WE'RE ROOTLESS WANDERERS, WITHOUT HOMES OR FAMILIES
I believe I've heard these lines before
O...OH, BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT. WE HAVE OUR PROBLEMS TOO YOU KNOW
Lim
MAYBE I SHOULD SEE IF THEY'LL LET ME JOIN YOUR TROUPE
THA-THAT'S RIGHT!
AFTER YOU LEFT LAST NIGHT, WE FOUND OUT OLIVER'S TRUE FEELINGS...
OLIVER SEEMS TO FEEL THE SAME WAY YOU DO
HE JUST NEEDS ONE MORE LITTLE PUSH IF YOU TAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH AND---
NO THAT'S ENOUGH
CELIA, IT'S YOUR JOB TO BE PRINCE, AND ONLY YOU CAN DO IT! THAT'S AN IMPORTANT ROLE!!


NO... NO MORE
I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM UP
PRINCE CELIA?
PRINCE!? WHY!?
THIS LOVE WILL BE THE ROOT OF MISFORTUNE FOR EVERYONE
FOR MY FATHER FOR MY MOTHER...
AND FOR OLIVER
FOR THE HAPPINESS OF THE CITIZENS
I WILL BURY MY FEELINGS ALIVE KILL THEM WHILE THEY STILL REMAIN SECRET
PRINCE

A DREAM?
YES
FOR THIS ONE NIGHT, WE'LL USE OUR FAIRY MAGIC
IN THAT CASE, AT LEAST LET US GIVE YOU ONE LAST "DREAM".
TO SHOW YOU YOUR HEART'S DESIRE

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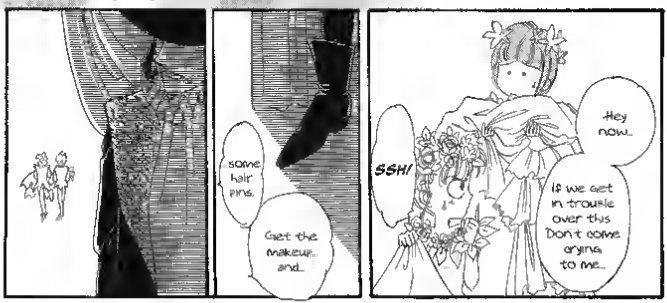

EXCUSE ME, BUT
WOULD YOU DANCE WITH ME, SIR?
Oooh~ What a lucky~
Thirsty
Thirsty
ER NO
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M HERE--
ON
GUARD
DUTY
AH-
YE- YES, I'D BE HONORED TO DANCE, IF YOU STILL WISH IT
kinda happy, kinda jealous
Phew! How come he looks so good in that?!
Auntie Rose's dress fits him perfectly

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MY WHAT A PERFECT COUPLE
I WONDER WHICH PRINCESS THAT TALL LADY IS...
AH, BUT... I'M CERTAIN I'VE SEEN HER FACE SOMEWHERE BEFORE
OH ?
WHO WOULD THAT BE?
YOU... YOU LOOK REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO SOMEONE I KNOW.

O- OF COURSE NOT! I WOULDN'T DARE...
IS "THAT PERSON" YOUR LOVER?
I JUST...
SELFISHLY ADORE THEM, ON MY OWN
OLIVER
...SOMEONE OF GREAT DIGNITY AND POSITION...
...BUT WHO DOESN'T LET IT GO TO THEIR HEAD...
SOMEONE KIND, WHO THINKS OF OTHERS. A BEAUTIFUL PERSON...

Lines! Say your lines!
Celia!
Hah!
IF IF THAT S THE CASE, WHY NOT TRY THIS IDEA?

PRE-
"PRETEND TO" ?
USE SWEET WORDS TO PRETEND TO WOO ME.
THINK OF ME AS YOUR BELOVED
IT'S A GAME.
WE'LL PLAY AT BEING LOVERS, JUST FOR TONIGHT.
I SEE
LET'S TRY IT THEN
THEN I'LL PRETEND TO BE THE PERSON YOU LOVE, AND ANSWER YOU.

©This is Romeo and Juliet Pt. II 107-111 - Emily
I'LL SWEAR ON THIS BEAUTIFUL MOON THAT MY LOVE FOR YOU IS TRUE.
IT WILL NOT DO TO SWEAR BY THAT INCONSISTANT MOON, WHICH CHANGES FROM DAY TO DAY
A-Ahem!
YOUR LIPS ARE SWEETER THAN THE FRUIT WHICH BLOOMS IN SPRING...
YOUR EYES SHINE LIKE STARS ON A WINTER'S NIGHT.
Those lines are a bit cliched, though.
This atmosphere is great! ♡
AND...
...UM...
And, when words fail, all that's left is to seal those lips with a kiss---

AH WITH THE MEMORY OF THIS ONE BEAUTIFUL MOMENT I'LL BE ABLE TO BEAR WITH THE REST OF MY LONG EMPTY LIFE ALONE
Th-
Th-
Th-
Shout
!!
I CAN'T DO THIS!!

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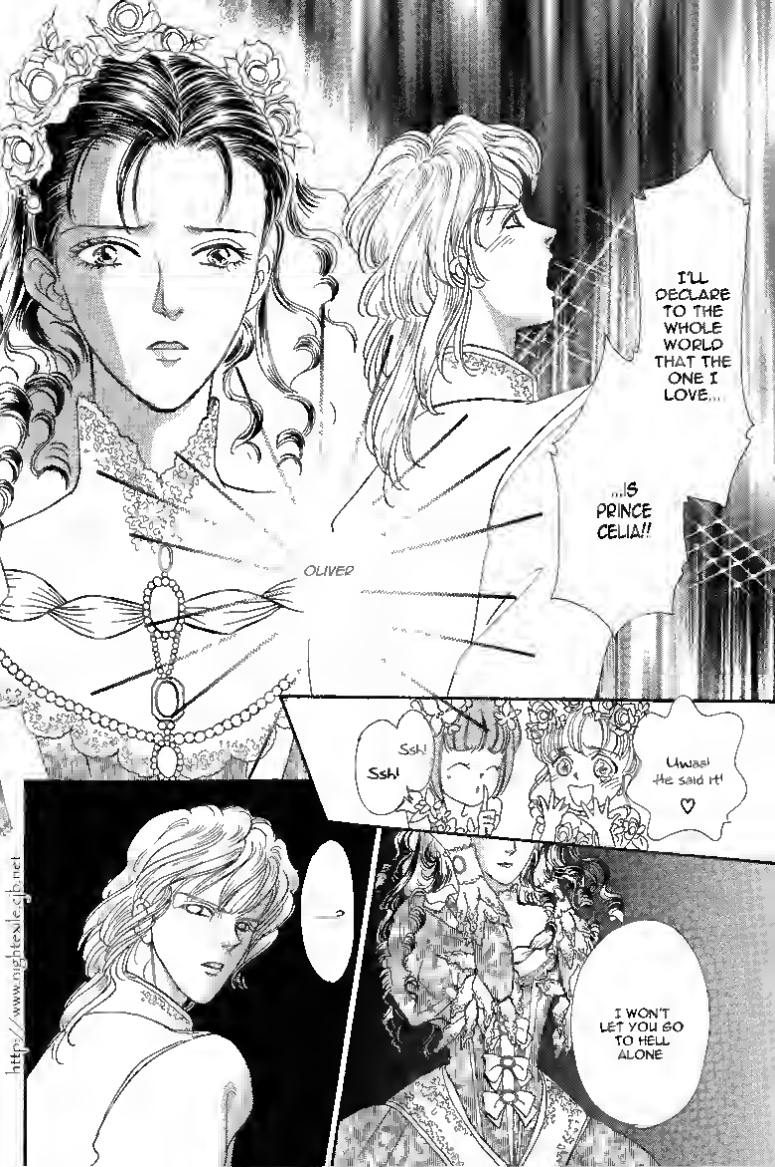
Da
da
da
O...
OLIVER!?
YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL, BUT I CAN'T LET MY TRUE FEELINGS MAKE YOU INTO A MERE SUBSTITUTE!!
Wah--- Stupid stupid stupid!
Coward.
...BUT...
TWO
THANKS TO THIS I'VE MADE UP MY MIND...
I CAN'T LIE ABOUT MY FEELINGS ANYMORE
EVEN IF IT BRINGS CONTEMPT DOWN ON MY HEAD...
EVEN IF I'M STRIPPED OF MY KNIGHTHOOD, OR EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THE CHURCH, OR FALL INTO HELL...
EVEN IF EVERYONE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD CRITICIZES ME BEHIND MY BACK... I DON'T CARE


I'LL DECLARE TO THE WHOLE WORLD THAT THE ONE I LOVE...
...IS PRINCE CELIA!!
OLIVER
Ssh!
Ssh!
Uwaa! He said it! ♡
I WON'T LET YOU GO TO HELL ALONE

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P-PRINCE ...!?
THAT COSTUME WHAT...!?
TAKE A GOOD LOOK
I AM CELIA
PR PRINCE CELIA!?
NOR CAUSE US EMBARRASSMENT IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD
OLIVER... OUR LOVE NEED NOT GO AGAINST GOD'S WILL.

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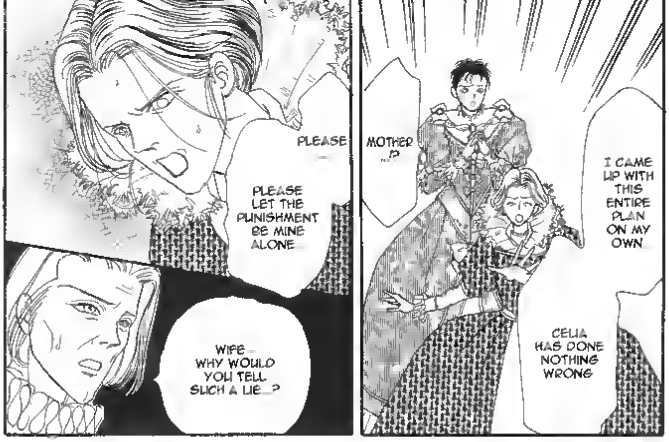
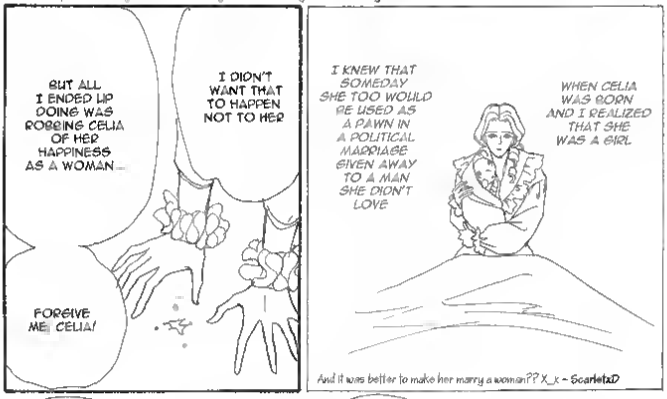
OH, CELIA!!
I'M PREPARED TO THROW AWAY BOTH MY HOUSE AND MY NAME
I DON'T NEED THE TITLE.
As long as we get a happy ending I don't care!
Well whatever
PR- PRINCE CELIA
NO, WAIT-
THAT MEANS
YOUR COURAGE IS CONTAGIOUS, APPARENTLY I'VE CAUGHT IT AS WELL.
*Again "Romeo and Juliet" =II several places Emily
I'LL NEVER ALLOW THIS, CELIA!!
AND NOW ALL THE PLAYERS ARE IN PLACE
ARE YOU PLANNING TO TOSS YOUR MOTHER ASIDE, AS WELL!?
MOTHER!?

FATHER!?
BOSS!!
IN TRUTH, OUR INVESTIGATION INTO PRINCE CELL'S BIRTH BEGAN QUITE SOME TIME AGO.
MARCHIONESS, YOU'VE DECEIVED NOT ONLY YOUR HUSBAND, BUT ALSO THE MOTHER OF OUR COUNTRY, HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.
WHEN LONDON HEARS OF THIS...
NOT ONLY WILL YOUR LAND BE FORFEIT AND YOUR HOUSE BE BE BANNED
I DOUBT ANYONE IN YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY WILL ESCAPE BEHEADING
W... WAIT, PLEASE!
HO..!
A BIT LATE TO BEG FOR YOUR LIFE NOW, ISN'T IT?

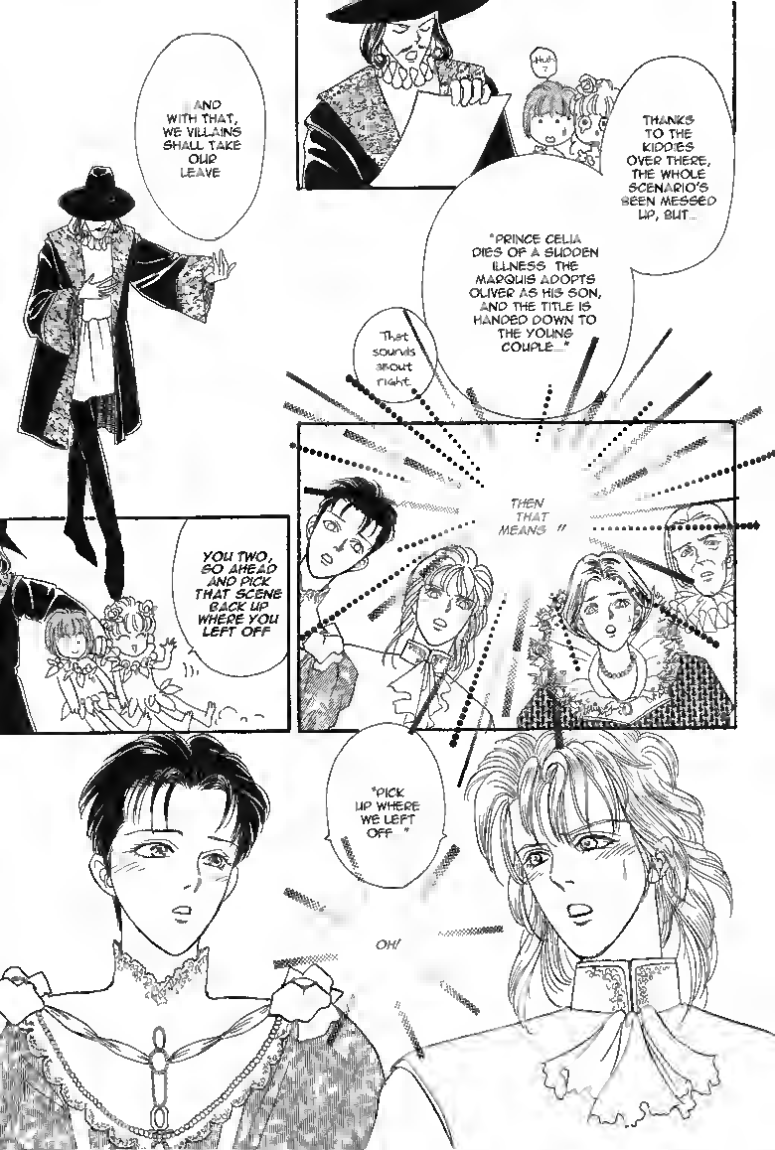

PLEASE...
PLEASE LET THE PUNISHMENT BE MINE ALONE...
WIFE... WHY WOULD YOU TELL SUCH A LIE...?
MOTHER!?
I CAME UP WITH THIS ENTIRE PLAN ON MY OWN
CELIA HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG

*I think the plan would've gone better if she'd given the kid a boy's name - Emily

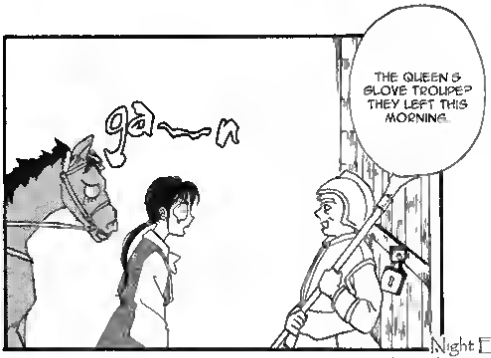

BUT ALL I ENDED UP DOING WAS ROBBING CELIA OF HER HAPPINESS AS A WOMAN...
I DIDN'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN NOT TO HER
FORGIVE ME, CELIA!
I KNEW THAT SOMEDAY SHE TOO WOULD BE USED AS A PAWN IN A POLITICAL MARRIAGE GIVEN AWAY TO A MAN SHE DIDN'T LOVE
WHEN CELIA WAS BORN AND I REALIZED THAT SHE WAS A GIRL
And it was better to make her marry a woman?? X_x ~ ScarletxD

YOU'VE FELT THIS WAY FOR TWENTY YEARS, AND I NEVER REALIZED I'VE BEEN A FOOL
RAISE YOUR HEAD, MY WIFE
WIFE IF I REMEMBER RIGHTLY YOU WERE TORN FROM YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND AND LOVER WHEN YOU WERE SENT TO THIS COUNTRY TO BE MY BRIDE WEREN'T YOU?
DARLING?

PLEASE IF NOTHING ELSE SPARE MY FATHER AND MOTHER
NO!! IF WE CAN BE BURIED TOGETHER AS PROPER HUSBAND AND WIFE, WE WOULD NOT COUNT OUR LIVES LOST IN VAIN
FATHER!?
DARLING!?
HONORABLE QUEEN'S MESSENGER
PLEASE GRANT THE WISH OF AN OLD MAN LET MY WIFE AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE ESCAPE
PLEASE LET THE PUNISHMENT FALL ONLY ON ME!!
FROM ALL THIS, YOU'D THINK I WAS THE VILLAIN HERE
MY OH MY
BOSS~~


...AND WITH THAT, WE VILLAINS SHALL TAKE OUR LEAVE
HUH?
THANKS TO THE KIDDIES OVER THERE, THE WHOLE SCENARIO'S BEEN MESSED UP, BUT...
"PRINCE CELIA DIES OF A SUDDEN ILLNESS. THE MARQUIS LOOPTS OLIVER AS HIS SON, AND THE TITLE IS HANDED DOWN TO THE YOUNG COUPLE..."
That sounds about right.
THEN THAT MEANS "
YOU TWO, GO AHEAD AND PICK THAT SCENE BACK UP WHERE YOU LEFT OFF
"PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF."
OH!

The second act of this love story begins now---
JACK... YOU'RE ABOUT TEN THOUSAND YEARS TOO YOUNG FOR THAT YET
LUCKY~~! I WANT TO PLAY A ROLE THAT HAS A LOVE SCENE LIKE THAT, TOO~!



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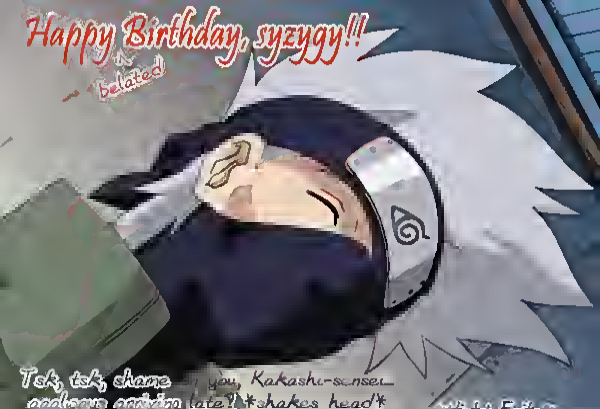
Happy Birthday, syzygy!!
belated
Tsk, tsk, shame
you, Kakashi-sensei
as always arriving late!! *shakes head*

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TRANSLATOR: EMILY

PROOFREADER/ CLEANER/ EDITOR: RASHA

SCANNER/ QCER: SCARLETND

QCER: GAEL

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# Oki ni mesu mama (As you like it)

by Akino Matsuri

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# 【 Act 3 】
# Magician's Curse

THERE WAS ONCE A HIDEOUS BEAST THAT LIVED ALONE IN A RUINED CASTLE
IT SEEMED AS THOUGH HE WOULD BREATHE HIS LAST BREATH WHILE STILL IN DESPAIR
BUT THEN
A MAIDEN WHO KNEW THE KINGNESS IN HIS HEART SHED TEARS OF TRUE LOVE FOR HIM
THE TERRIBLE CURSE WAS BROKEN

* For those of you who are keeping track, Shakespeare did not write "Beauty and the Beast" nor did he use it as a major plot in my knowledge (His preferred human resource for misidentification.) Emily

...EVER AFTER...
THE TWO THEN LIVED LONG AND HAPPILY TOGETHER...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

GREAT WORK TONIGHT.
NICE JOB, EVERY-ONE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, JACK?
ARE YOU STILL SULKING?
Humph
THIS TIME SHE WAS A TEAPOT
WOW, JACK!
RAYMOND!
YOU WERE AWESOME TONIGHT!
THERE'S NOT A TEAPOT MORE CHARMING OR SEXIER THAN YOU IN THE WHOLE WORLD
Well, gosh, I'm not all THAT.

NOW THEN...
TONIGHT WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO THE MANOR OF OUR SPONSOR IN THIS TOWN, SO THERE'D BETTER NOT BE ANY "ACCIDENTS", ALL RIGHT?
OUR SPONSOR THE MEDICINE WHOLE-SALER?
YES THIS TOWN IS FAMOUS FOR ITS MEDICINAL HERBS AND COLOGNES MADE FROM FLOWERS...
AND THIS MEDICINE SHOP IS THE BIGGEST ONE IN TOWN
UGH, THAT FAT, LUSTFUL, OILY OLD UPSTART?
HERE NOW, WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!
WE TRAVELING PLAYERS NEED ALL OUR SPONSORS IN EVERY AREA.
BUT IT IS TRUE THAT HE'S A SOCIAL UPSTART
LADY AUDREY!?

• Audrey is the name of a girlhood that Touchstone the jester marries in the play As You Like It. Emily

YOUR PERFORMANCE EARLIER WAS TRULY WONDERFUL.
IT LEFT QUITE AN IMPRESSION ON ME
ESPECIALLY
M--MY LADY! WE DIDN'T
I DO SEE YOUR PARDON!
IT'S OKAY.
WHO'S SHE?
The only daughter of the sponsor!
Oh, my?
DEAR LADY! ♡
DO-DON'T YOU DARE, RAYMOND IS MINE--
YOUR EYES HAVE CAPTURED MY HEART
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, IT IS YOUR SLAVE
Quit it, she's our SPONSOR!
WHAT! WHY! WHY!

COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME THE POTION THAT YOU USED TO BREAK THE SPELL?
WELL...
ANY-THING
THEN, MAY I ASK A FAVOR OF YOU?
HUH!?
I was the tear-drop!
I'm so glad.
If you can't cry right away, I'll help you out.
Come on, come on, hurry!
WAIT..
YOUNG LADY, PLEASE WAIT!
I'LL COLLECT THE TEARDROPS IN THIS BOTTLE
PUNCH
MM IF I RECALL
YES! YOU! IT WAS YOUR TEARS!
OKAY, NOW, CRY AGAIN!

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I WORE THIS MASK AND WIG
SEE? WHEN I PLAYED "THE BEAST"...
WHAT!?
WHAT YOU SAW BEFORE WAS JUST A PLAY.
ALL OF IT WAS MADE-UP
Blush
OH... OH MY... I CAN'T BELIEVE I THOUGHT
...OH... I SEE...
...IS THAT WHAT HAP-PENED...
HUMP

AUDREY
WHY DID YOU THINK YOU NEEDED A POTION TO BREAK A SPELL?
THE TRUTH IS...
IT APPEARS THAT MY FIANCE HAS HAD A CURSE PUT ON HIM
WHAT!?
HE'S THE RULER OF THIS TOWN, HIS LORDSHIP BARON RIKER
YES MOTHER AND FATHER WELL, THEY WERE DELIGHTED
BUT I'VE NEVER MET BARON RIKER, NOT EVEN ONCE
My, my! So you're marrying into money aren't you?

BARON RIKER LIVES IN THE OLD RUN-DOWN MANOR ON TOP OF THE HILL. HE ALWAYS STAYS INDOORS, NEVER SETTING FOOT OUTSIDE.
THE VILLAGERS WHISPER THAT HE'S A GIANT OF A MAN, SEVEN FEET TALL*, AND THAT HIS ENTIRE BODY IS COVERED IN HAIR, LIKE A BEAR'S.
HIS EARS ARE POINTED, HIS EYES BLOODSHOT, HIS NOSE AS HOOKED AS AN EAGLE'S BEAK, AND HIS MOUTH SPLITS HIS FACE FROM EAR TO EAR....
AND HE SPENDS EVERY NIGHT IN AN UNDERGROUND ROOM IN THE MANOR, OBSESSIVELY DISTILLING POISONS FROM FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN THE GRAVEYARD. THINGS LIKE THAT.
POISON!?
I'M AFRAID TO GO BE THE WIFE OF SUCH A MAN.

* Approx. 2 meters 14 centimeters.

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! YOUR PARENTS JUST SELFISHLY CHOOSING A MONSTER LIKE THAT FOR YOU TO MARRY!
I KNOW !!
EVEN IF HE IS A GREAT LORD BARON, THERE'S NO WAY I'D GO TO SOME HAIRY PERVERT!
Jack
He's at it again.
HEY, AUNTIE ROSE
NOT YOU, TOO...
WELL, I NEVER! MY BODY MAY BE MALE BUT MY HEART IS THAT OF A WOMAN!
I WON'T FORGIVE UGLINESS IN A MAN!
That's the nature of a female impersonator
ALL RIGHT!!
AUDREY, YOU JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!!
Grab!
WAIT A MINUTE. ALL THOSE THINGS ARE JUST RUMORS, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT! BESIDES, THE MEASURE OF A MAN ISN'T IN HIS FACE, IT'S IN HIS HEART!!
Raymond that has no persuasive power whatsoever when you

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BOSS~
SHOULDN'T WE STOP THIS...?
They're getting all excited for no reason.
Keh!
Leave it. Leave it.
OH-! ME TOO, I'M GOING TOO!
LET'S GO SEE THIS BARON'S FACE FOR OURSELVES!
We'll pack a lunch and head out tomorrow~!

Yeek!

This road's not much more than a deer path!

Yeah... Is this really the way?

YES

I'VE BEEN TO THE MANSION ONCE BEFORE

...ONLY THEY SAID HE WAS "TAKING AN AFTERNOON NAP" OR SOMETHING, AND I DIDN'T GET TO SEE HIM

I knew it. He's a monster, so he sleeps in a coffin during the day.

Auntie, stop it! That's too scary!





The record I is my spouse that Dr. Watson, Dead Skully and Dracula, Majora's Mask's better chance of discovering anything than these three big nuts." - Emily

SAY, AUDREY?
WHAT, JACK?
WHY DO YOU WANT A MAGIC POTION TO BREAK A SPELL...
FOR THIS GUY?
EVERY SINGLE DAY, A BOUQUET OF ROSES IS DELIVERED TO ME FROM THE BARON
WOW~
WHO the thought?
... WELL
BECAUSE OF THE ROSES
ROSES?

IN SUNNY WEATHER
OR WHEN IT RAINS
HE'S NEVER MISSED A DAY.
SO I THOUGHT... MAYBE...
MAYBE THE BARON ISN'T AS TERRIBLE A PERSON AS THE VILLAGERS SAY...

MAYBE HE'S LIKE THE BEAST IN THE PLAY, REALLY A GOOD PERSON AT HEART ..?
WHOA ..!!
WHAT FABULOUS ROSES!!
The surroundings a whole lot...
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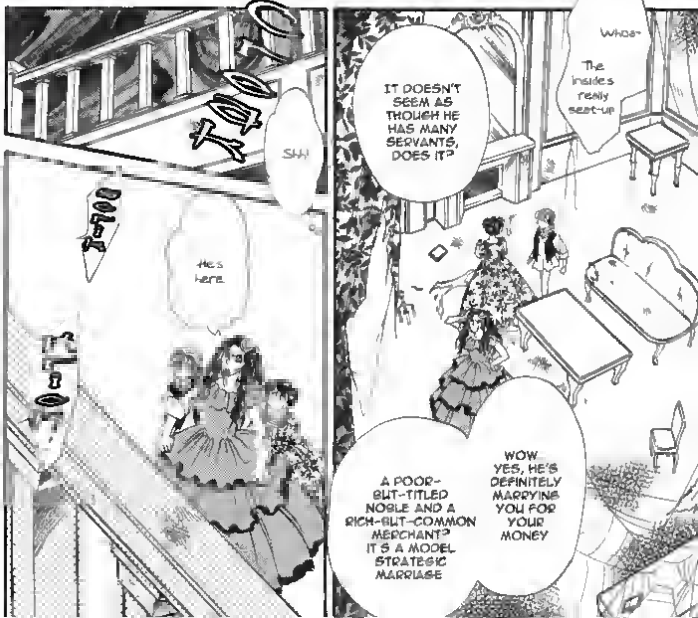
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
Flinch
GOOD AFTER-NOON, HARRY
A... AUDREY-SAMA!?
HI!
THIS IS HARRY, THE GARDENER
IS THE BARON IN?
HUH?
UHM---
Y'SEE, THE THING IS---
THE MASTER CAME DOWN WITH A SLIGHT COLD THIS MORNING, SO HE'S RESTING

THAT, AND
I'D LIKE TO THANK HIM ORDERLY FOR THE ROSES
Mm? Was that line in there?
YOU'RE HIS FUTURE BRIDE! YOU SHOULD GO NURSE HIM GENTLY BACK TO HEALTH
OH, MY! THEN YOU REALLY MUST PAY HIM A VISIT
I WON'T LEAVE HERE UNTIL I SEE HIM
RI.
RIGHT!
THEN THEN, IF YOU'D WAIT JUST A MOMENT
I'LL GO INFORM THE MASTER OF YOUR ARRIVAL.
YOU
DID YOU REALLY LIKE THE ROSES?
Really ?
YES
I LIKE THE COLORS
AND THEY HAVE A LOVELY SCENT


CLOP CLOP
SHH
He's here
Who-
The insides really sent-up
IT DOESN'T SEEM AS THOUGH HE HAS MANY SERVANTS, DOES IT?
WOW YES, HE'S DEFINITELY MARRYING YOU FOR YOUR MONEY
A POOR-BUT-TITLED NOBLE AND A RICH-BUT-COMMON MERCHANT? IT'S A MODEL STRATEGIC MARRIAGE

Welcome, Audrey.
I am Riker.

JACK! NOT YOU, TOO--
AUDREY!?
Oh no no no no no
KISSED...
Mmm--

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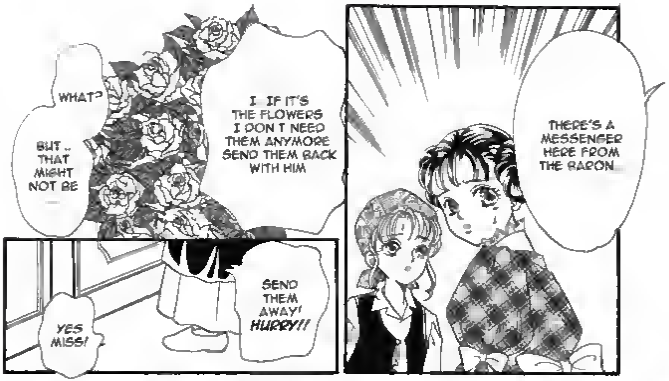
THE BARON REALLY IS A MONSTER!
WHAT!?
NOT JUST "SUSPICIOUS"! HE WAS A REAL MONSTER!
WELL, WELL. THIS IS VERY SUSPI-CIOUS
AND? WHERE ARE AUDREY AND JACK?
THEY BOTH FAINTED I CARRIED THEM TO AUDREY'S HOUSE BEFORE I CAME HERE
NO, NOT THAT
OUR MISSION THIS TIME IS TO INVESTIGATE A DRUG THAT'S BEING ILLEGALLY PRODUCED IN THIS TOWN
WE SAW IT!
WE SAW IT!
WE SAW IT~~!

WHERE AM I!?
UH HUH?
SNIFF
RIGHT, THEN! "THE QUEEN'S GLOVE" WILL EXPOSE THE TRUTH!
MIGHT BARON RIKER BE THE ONE BEHIND EVERYTHING?
THAT DRUG IS SMUGGLED OUT BY SECRET ROUTES. THEN EXPORTED OVERSEAS. YIELDING A HUGE PROFIT FROM WHAT YOU'VE SAID.

JACK! YOU'RE AWAKE?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
WE BOTH FAINTED AT THE BARON'S MANOR
OH, I THAT'S RIGHT!!
AUDREY!!
UHH
JUST REMEMBERING THAT GIVES ME GOOSE-BUMPS
M-ME TOO---
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO BECOME A NUN AND SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE SINGLE!
TEAR TEAR
AUDREY
NO MATTER HOW GENTLE AND KIND HE IS INSIDE, I DON'T BELIEVE I COULD SPEND EVEN A MINUTE WITH SOMEONE WHO LOOKED THAT HORRID
You're mistress


THERE'S A MESSENGER HERE FROM THE BARON
I... IF IT'S THE FLOWERS I DON'T NEED THEM ANYMORE SEND THEM BACK WITH HIM
WHAT?
BUT... THAT MIGHT NOT BE
SEND THEM AWAY! HURRY!!
YES MISS!

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LADY AUDREY!
THANK GOODNESS...!! YOU'RE ALREADY ABLE TO BE UP AND ABOUT...
HURRY!?
"I WAS SO WORRIED WHEN YOU SUDDENLY LOST CONSCIOUSNESS."
THAT'S WHAT THE BARON TOLD ME TO TELL YOU.
TO-
TODAY'S ROSES ARE ESPECIALLY LOVELY
...BUT ...

I'VE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE CARE OF THE BARON'S FLOWER GARDEN, SO...
HUH?
YES
IT WAS YOU, THE GARDENER, WHO GREW THESE ROSES, WASN'T IT?
YOU TAKE THAT PERILOUS MOUNTAIN ROAD, BOTH WAYS
EVERY DAY, TO DELIVER THESE FLOWERS
THOSE ARE THE MASTER'S ORDERS
STILL, THANK YOU.
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PLEASE TELL THE BARON
THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS SENDING THE FLOWERS
Y-YES
WE-WELL, THEN
...UNTIL TOMOR-ROW
AUD-REY!?
WHAT HAPPENED!? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY WHAT YOU PLANNED TO?
"I WANT TO REJECT THIS MARRIAGE PROPOSAL"
"DON'T SEND ME FLOWERS ANYMORE"
"WHY"...?
"WHY"... I WONDER
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM THAT!?

IF I DECLINE THE PROPO-SAL...
HE'LL STOP SENDING THE FLOWERS
AND WHEN I THINK THAT THAT GARDENER...
...WILL NEVER COME BACK, I...
AH...
MY CHEST HURTS
I'VE GOT TO GET THE MEDICINE FROM FATHER...
THIS HAS BEEN HAPPENING A LOT RECENTLY
AUD-REY!?

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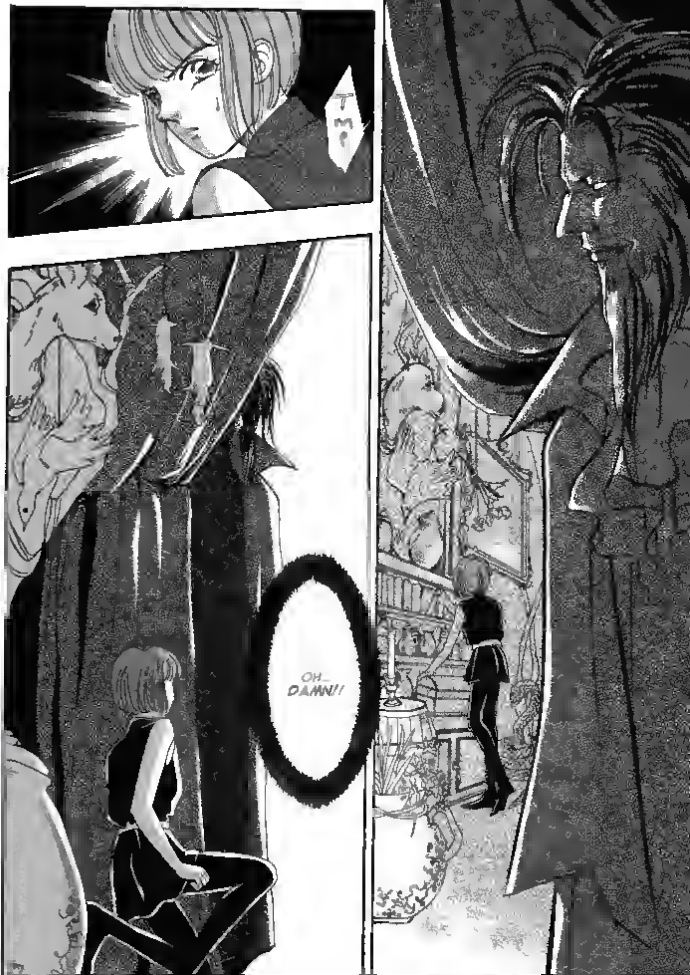
RIGHT ON SCHEDULE TODAY, TOO THE GARDENER LEAVES, CARRYING FLOWERS, AND HERE WE GO
SWOOSH
THE ONLY PEOPLE INSIDE THE CASTLE NOW ARE ELDERLY SERVANTS AND THE BARON
WE'LL USE THIS CHANCE TO FIND EVIDENCE ON HOW THE DRUG IS MANUFAC-TURED
RIGHT!

It really doesn't look like he's fattening his wallet on the sly.
Man, but this place is falling apart
IT'S A BASEMENT ROOM
IS THIS THE DRUG DISTILLERY!?


Time
OH... DAMN!!

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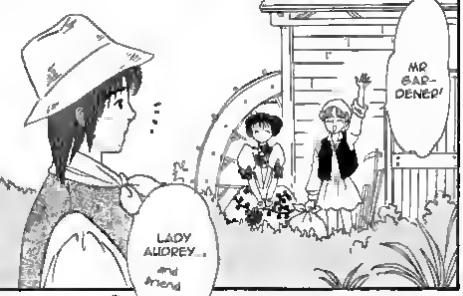


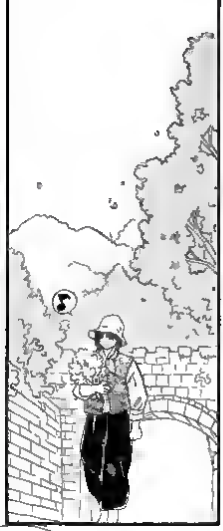

JACK SAID THAT THE BEST MEDICINE FOR MY AILMENT WOULD BE A CHANGE OF SCENE
YES, BUT...
BUT-!
THIS IS ALL SO SUDDEN, AND !
...UM
WOULD IT TROUBLE YOU TO GO WITH ME?
. OH ...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.

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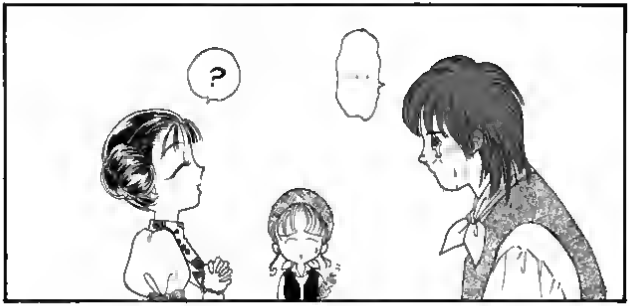
A- AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M NOT A HANDSOME MAN.
I'M NO CONVERSATIONALIST
I- I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING REALLY "REDEEMING" TO BOAST OF
OH, BUT
YOU'RE MUCH MORE HANDSOME THAN THAT BARON!


?
...

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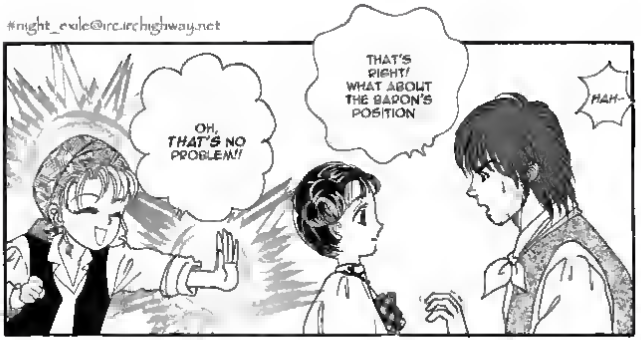

ONCE THAT HAPPENS, YOU'LL BE A FREE MAN
NO NEED TO FEIGN LOYALTY
HEEEEY, JACK!!
BOSS!?
WHAT!?
VERY SOON, ALL HIS EVIL DEEDS WILL BE EXPOSED
HE'S AS GOOD AS ON HIS WAY TO PRISON

THE ONE MANUFACTURING THE DOLLS WAS AUDREY'S FATHER!
THIS IS IMMOVABLE PROOF!
WE FOUND THIS "UNOFFICIAL" LEDGER BOOK IN A HIDDEN ROOM IN THE SHOP
BAD NEWS! THE SCENARIO'S CHANGED ON US!
WHAT!?
Death Penalty
Unofficial Ledger
Household effects
Hidden room
SORRY, YOUNG MISS
I DOUBT THIS WILL WARRENT THE DEATH PENALTY, BUT YOU'D BETTER PREPARE TO HAVE THE HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS CONFISCATED

Rattle
Rattle
Rattle
!?
Rattle
Rattle
AH— LADY AUDREY !?
MEANING THE BARON'S INNOCENT!?
IF THAT'S TRUE, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO AUDREY AND HARRY!?
Are you all right!?

YEEEEE~~~~
HE ALREADY
FOUND OUT!?
Ah-
Again!?
BA..
BARON!?

Härry ...
How dare you, a mere gardener ...
...betray me, your master!
AH...
Maybe I should make you into rust on my blade, right here.
UM...
BOSS-- DO SOME-THING----

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WAIT!!
AUDREY!?
IN EXCHANGE
I'LL MARRY YOU AS I PROMISED!!
SHIVER
SHIVER

IF YOU'LL STILL HAVE ME, EVEN SO—
MY FAMILY HAS BECOME PENNILESS

!!

WHAT DO YOU SAY, BARON RIKER?
THEN
I SEE!!
MEANING, "THERE'LL BE NO DOWRY", EH?

HUH!?
DOWRY MONEY!?
..WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?
WHAA!?
slip
RAY-MOND!?

UMM...
WELL...
HAPPY COULD IT BE THAT YOU RE
THE REAL BARON RIKER!?

NO!!
I NEVER INTENDED ANYTHING OF THE SORT!
In the basement of the manor
We found the mask and wig
...what to believe in anymore
Geez... I don't know
YOU YOU'VE BEEN DECEIVING ME, ALL THIS TIME?
WERE YOU ONLY PLAYING WITH ME!?
• Well, that makes RAYMUND kinda evil, doesn't it?!

GOOD AFTERNOON, MR GARDENER!
"GARDENER"?
COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE HIS LORDSHIP THE BARON MIGHT BE?
THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU...
IT WAS AN EASY MISTAKE TO MAKE
I THOUGHT, IF YOU WERE TO LEARN THAT I WAS YOUR FIANCE, ALL YOUR HOPES WOULD BE DASHED, SO...
I JUST KEPT ON NOT TELLING YOU.
Blush
CO- COME TO THINK OF IT, I... OH MY GOODNESS!
I JUST COULDN'T IMAGINE THAT A BARON WOULD BE TROMPING AROUND THE GARDEN COVERED WITH MUD



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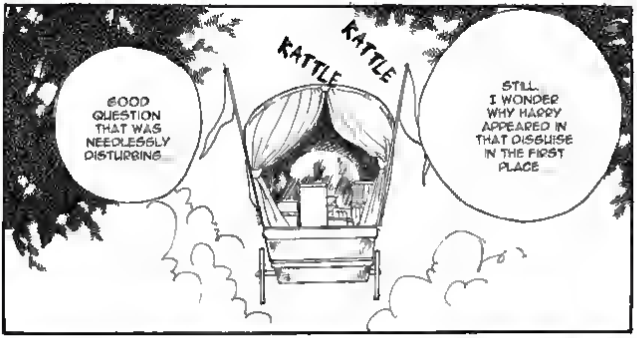
I'M NOT HANDSOME
I'M NOT RICH
THE ONLY THING I CAN REALLY DO WELL...
IS GROW ROSES.
AND ON RAINY DAYS
AND WINDY DAYS
NEVER MISSING A SINGLE DAY, WHAT WAS SENT WERE

...YOUR TRUE FEELINGS
LOOKS LIKE THE WEDDING'S STILL ON
Man oh man.
GOOD FOR YOU, AUDREY!
THEY'RE BOTH SO DITZY WONDER IF THEY'LL BE OKAY TOGETHER
Well birds of a feather do well together you know.


KATTLE
KATTLE
GOOD QUESTION THAT WAS NEEDLESSLY DISTURBING...
STILL, I WONDER WHY HARRY APPEARED IN THAT DISGUISE IN THE FIRST PLACE...

ACCORDING TO WHAT THE VILLAGERS SAY...
...THIS IS WHAT GARONS ARE SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT MAKE ME LOOK MORE SOPHISTICATED
DID I GET IT WRONG?
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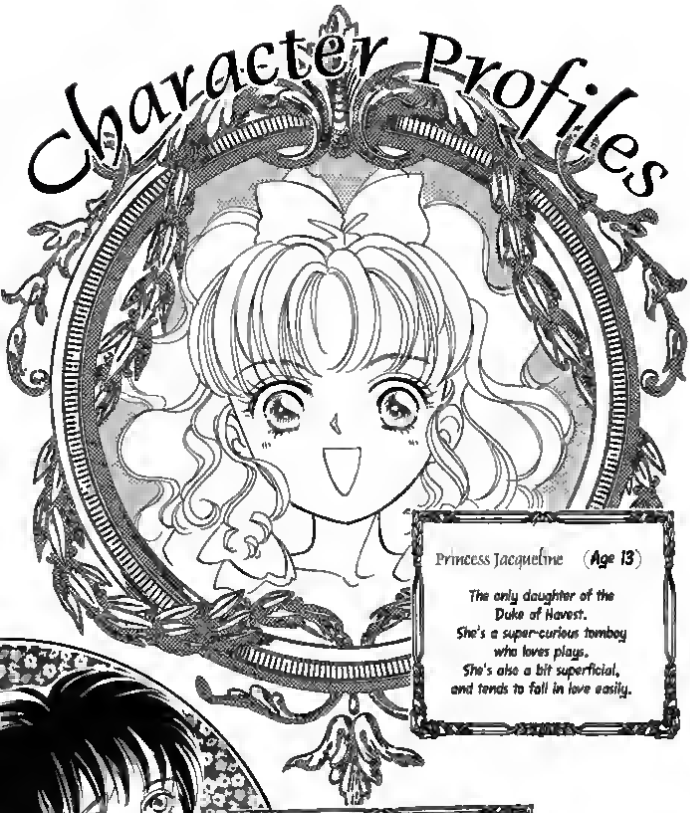
# Character Profiles



**Princess Jacqueline** (Age 13)

*The only daughter of the Duke of Havest. She's a super-curious tomboy who loves plays. She's also a bit superficial, and tends to fall in love easily.*

**Andrew** (Age 18)

*The Grandson of a venerable serving woman of the Havest family. He's been Jacqueline's keeper from a young age. Although his life is full of hardships, his presence is easily ignored. All in all, a pity case.*

* It's okay, Andrew. I love you. | Emily

# The Queen's Glove

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**Raymond** (Age 20)
A refreshing smile and flirtatious glances are second nature to this lead actor. He believes that "wooing women is an art", and is your typical playboy.

**The Company Director**
(Age 38, and even his moustache is tasteful.)
The script writer, sometimes actor, and manager of the company. He enjoys the confidence of the queen, and is sent to carry out sensitive investigations.

**Auntie Rose**
An extremely experienced female impersonator, with eighteen years on the stage.
A paragon of an actress, whose credo is "My body may be male, but my heart is female".
His dark moustache is a bit of a fly in the ointment, though.

**Manager**
In charge of the accounting. Burdened with the spendthrift company director and actors, his head and stomach always seem to be hurting.

**Props and Special Effects Creator**
Popularly dubbed "the doctor". Is he really a mysterious alchemist?

There's also a dog (Aphrodisia), he hasn't appeared yet. Of course he acts too.

**Marlowe**
(Age 13, his voice hasn't changed yet.)
The troupe's star female impersonator. He claims that he was sold to the company for eighteen pounds, but this is unconfirmed. In contrast to the "pretty princess" roles he usually plays, he may actually be the most level-headed, "toughest" one of the group.

All members included, the troupe consists of about fifteen people, maybe...?

# Greetings

I'm Akino Matsuri. It's read as "Akino Matsuri"*
To my first-time readers: it's nice to meet you.

To my long-time readers: Heavens, fancy meeting YOU here! What a coincidence.

Thanks to you, this series has made it into book-form.

Happy day, happy day.

To begin with, I didn't want the plays to be the kind that the Imperial Theatre or the Nissei Theatre put on, the high society type where tickets are spendy and you have to be dressed up. Instead, I wanted them to be more like the ones put on by Shimokitazawa's Suzunari or Honda Theatre, the ones you can just walk in and enjoy. So please don't think over-serious things like "She's blaspheming Shakespeare here~~~☆" or "Her historical research was way off~~~☆" Just relax and read it for fun, kay?

* This makes sense when there's kanji involved. - Emily

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AUTHOR/ ISHII MIKIKO

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AUTHOR/ ROBERT FINYARD TRANSLATOR/ INASE KOU

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COMPILER/ JAN BOYDELL AUTHOR/ OOFASHIMA YUUSHI

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WORK/ CHARLES LAMB TRANSLATOR/ NOGAMI YAYOIKO

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AUTHOR/ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE TRANSLATOR/ OOFASHIMA YUUSHI

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